■ NEWS / A2

VACC report claims Ultra gate to Wowowee electrified

■ ACROSS / A8

17 C. Luzon villages in 3 provinces at risk for landslides, says geologist

■ NEWS / A2

Joker: If SC sustains EO 464, GMA would be quasi-dictator

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

Tonyboy Cojuangco's dream of building digital theaters dashed

Series of explosive protests until GMA quits, says group

By Dona Pazzibugan and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A GROUP CLAIMING TO BE COMPOSED OF young military officers yesterday announced the start of a "series of explosive protest activities" just hours after a powerful blast rocked Malacañang.

In an unsigned statement sent through fax, the Young Officers Union of the New Generation and

SERIES/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, February 21, 2006 ★★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 75 P18 website: www.inq7.net

GMA sends off Spanish rescue team, dogs to Leyte

By Nikko Dizon

BIENVENIDOS AMIGOS!

THREE K-9 DOGS SENT by the Spanish government to assist in the search-and-rescue operations in Southern Leyte had no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo

GMA SENDS / A16

Blast rocks Malacañang

Explosion also hits Makati; grenade found in Quezon City

By Christine O. Avendaño

AS PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo was about to meet with officials of the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) for a thanksgiving lunch in Malacañang yesterday, a loud explosion rocked the Palace grounds.

The explosion, which occurred at 12:02 p.m. in front of the Radio and Television Malacañang office (RTVM), shook nearby offices but did not cause serious damage.

A second explosive device went off on a street in Makati City at 1:30 p.m., injuring a 3-year-old girl.

Hours before, a grenade with its safety pin missing was disarmed by police in Quezon City. It was found in a garbage bin outside the National Printing Office.

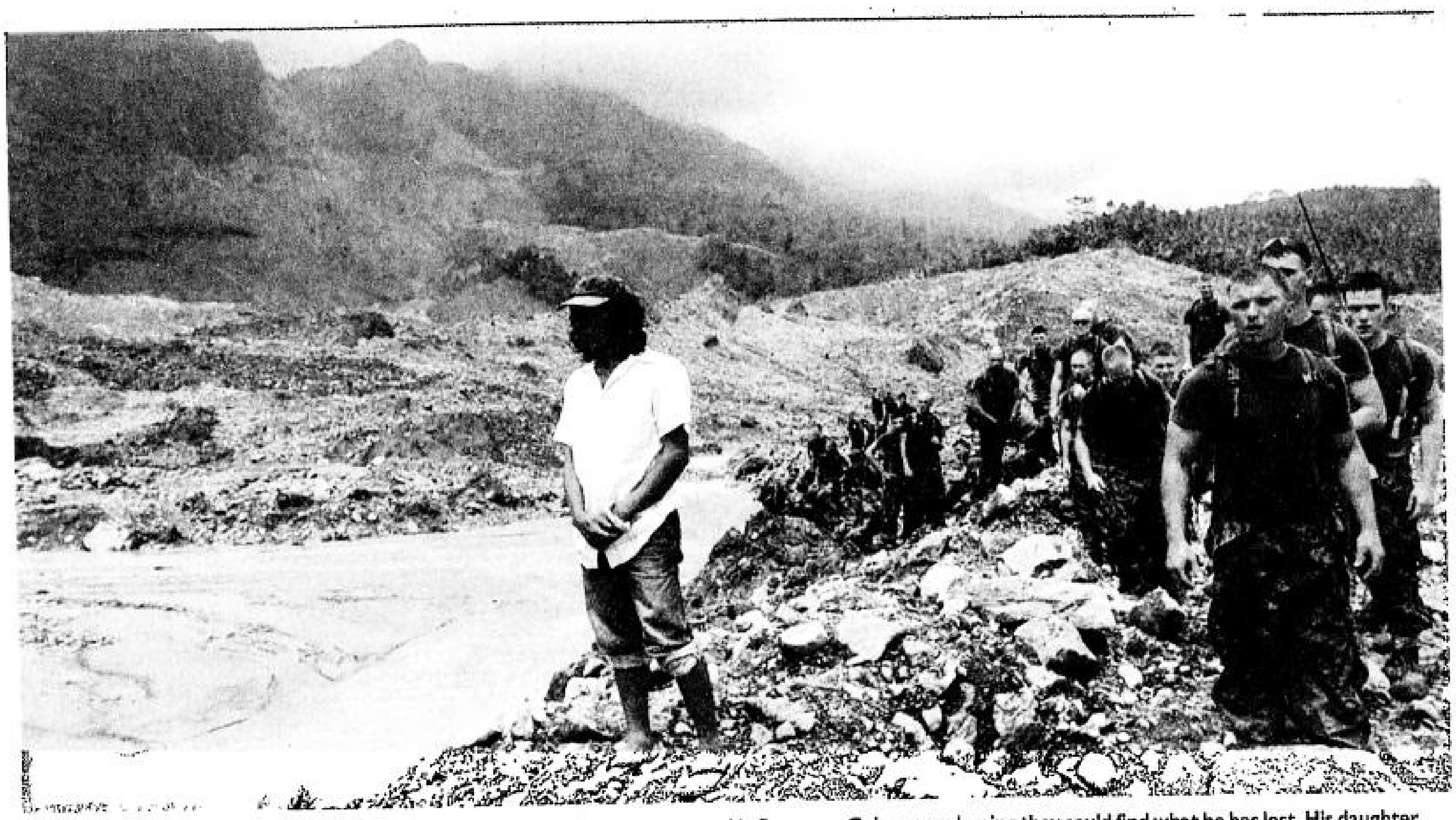
It was unclear if the two other cases were related to the blast at Malacañang.

A group claiming to be young "reformist" military officers claimed in a statement that it "started today a series of explosive protest activities that will continue and even escalate until Gloria Arroyo leaves the presidency." *(See story above.)*

The unsigned statement was sent through fax by the Young Officers Union of the New Generation (YOUNG) and Reformist AFP (RAFP).

Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit, head of the Presi-

BLASTS/ A4



FARMER Venancio Mencede, 50, leads US Marines to where his house once stood in Barangay Guinsaugon hoping they could find what he has lost. His daughter Chona was at the village elementary school that disappeared under the mudslides last Friday.

EDWIN BACASMAS

EDWIN BACASMAS

UNEXPECTED VISITOR: Business tycoon Lucio Tan surveys the wasteland on Monday. *(See Page A17.)*

Voices heard below the ground

By Volt Contreras, Jani Arnaiz and Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN Leyte—First there were "scratches" on what seemed like a metal sheet. Then rhythmic tapping. Finally, there were sounds like human voices.

Hope was coming in trickles yesterday but it was enough to lift the spirits of rescue teams scrambling to save about 250 children and teachers feared buried in a school that disappeared under a massive landslide.

Gov. Rosette Lerias told the INQUIRER at about 4 p.m. that she just got a report from a Filipino rescue team that it had just heard "very faint rhythmic tapping" at the site

VOICES/ A16

THE PEOPLE

Kitchen brigade with no stove, water or food

By Luz Gaerlan-Lopez

WHEN AN OFFICER went to the gate of Camp Crame on Day One of the 1986 People Power revolution to ask for people who could cook, I was one of those who immediately volunteered.

I was then 55 years old, a volunteer in the Cory Aquino election campaign and

KITCHEN/ A15

I gave light

By Julie Garcia

I WAS ONLY TURNING 6 years old when the first Edsa Revolution occurred. I could barely understand what was happening or the political situation we were facing.

I was curious to know what was going on, but I know that something big was taking place.

I could see on television that a lot of people were marching in the streets, praying,

I GAVE/ A15

STOP POLITICAL REPRESSION

RALLYING WITH DAD, Pablito Sanidad Jr., at 5. *(Story on Page A15.)*

THE MILITARY

Why the cannons did not fire at Edsa

By Napoleon C. Manalo

(First of two parts)

THIS IS THE STORY OF MY FATHER WHO died without being recognized for the very large contribution he made to the first Edsa people power revolution, a very sad gift for a military man who served his country well for 35 years.

My father, Col. Carlos B. Manalo, the chief ordnance and bomb disposal expert of the Philippine Constabulary, died on June 11, 1998. He never had the satisfaction of having his act of heroism recognized. None of the books that supposedly covered every event during the four days of Edsa mentioned his name.

If Edsa did not become a bloody event, it was because my father refused to follow the orders of Gen. Fabian Ver to release the ammunition for the howitzers that would have fired at the crowds at Edsa.

And after President Marcos quit Malacañang, it was my father who cleared the grounds of all the bombs that Maj. Wyrlo Ver had

WHY / A18

THE PALACE

Rebels bomb Malacañang; 'Marcos stoic'

By Rita B. Gadi

(First of two parts)

Editor's Note: The following are excerpts from the forthcoming book, "Imelda Unmasked," by the author, who served as media adviser to President and Ms Marcos. She was based at the Maharlika Broadcasting Station.

I WROTE THIS ENTRY ON MY DIARY on Feb. 24, 1986:

"A bomb had just exploded somewhere on the roof of the Palace. On the second floor where the residence and offices were located, the large wooden chandeliers swayed precariously. The hardwood floors of the Ceremonial Hall heaved.

"The chairs were in disarray and the thick curtains dividing the Hall from the receiving lounge were drawn. It was dark and deserted except for a few Palace guards who stood by the exits.

"They scampered toward President Marcos' study and shouted at me to take cover. But where could I go? I ran with

REBEL/ A18

Bishop Soc slams gov't, Edsa I 'pimps and rapists'

POLITICIANS, PARTICULARLY those who have benefited from it, have raped People Power, according to a bishop who was a veteran of the February 1986 uprising that awed the world.

In a scathing statement titled "Looking at People Power," Balanga Bishop Socrates Villegas, who was a close associate of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, yesterday said the low-key celebration prepared by President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration was indicative of the behavior of "pimps and rapists" who abandoned their victim after getting what they wanted.

Villegas said the administration was staging a simple celebration and banking on the euphemism that people power was really in the heart simply because it had "abused and plundered" the legacy of the event.

"I protest against the way the government remembers its roots," he said. "I pity people power."

As confidant of then Manila Archbishop Sin, Villegas had an insider's look at the civilian-backed revolt that toppled the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

It was Sin, the would-be bishop's longtime mentor, who had called on the people to converge on Edsa and help secure then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and then Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Fidel V. Ramos.

BISHOP SOC/ A16

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: At 2 p.m. yesterday, a low pressure area was estimated at 220 km. Southwest of Southern Mindanao. The diffused tail-end of a cold front was over extreme Northern Luzon. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/02/21/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

EO 464 makes GMA quasi-dictator–Joker

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WOULD RULE in a "quasi-dictatorship" and the senators would be "castrated" if the Supreme Court sustains Executive Order No. 464, maverick administration Sen. Joker Arroyo warned yesterday.

Arroyo said the high court's scheduled hearing today of a petition questioning the constitutionality of the order, which bars government, military and police officials from testifying in Congressional investigations without the President's permission, was a matter of "life and death" for the Senate.

The senator, who would orally argue the case for the Senate, said that a judicial ratification of EO 464 "would result in a quasi-dictatorship because the President can rule without having to think of Congress and Congress can't make laws to curtail presidential excesses."

"This is the danger of EO 464. That's why I said this is a life-and-death thing for the Senate," he added during a news briefing.

"Remember that no President of the Philippines has ever dared curtail the right of Congress to invite Cabinet members to appear and explain their actuations in the department or to get information from them. Only President GMA has done that."

EO 464 has been a major flashpoint for confrontation between the Senate and Malacañang since it was issued in September.

If upheld by the Supreme Court, the order would render the senators powerless to inquire into anomalies and pass legislation, Arroyo said.

"If the EO 464 is sustained, I think it will castrate the Senate, in the vernacular *'parang kinapun,'* and that is very dangerous because we will be nothing more than eunuchs," he said.

"If this is granted, we're practically inutile. What will we do? How can we enact legislation without a hearing because the President will not allow the Cabinet members to appear? How can we enact laws if we can't get information because the President will tell the Cabinet members not to produce the information that we need?"

"We have to rely on the Executive to make laws. That is why the partnership of the Executive and the Senate or Congress is indispensable. EO 464 effectively cuts that relationship."

The hearing of the case comes more than a week after the row between the executive and legislative branches flared anew after Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and officials of the Department of Interior and Local Governments skipped the Senate budget hearings on Feb. 8, invoking EO 464.

This prompted the senators to file an urgent motion with the high court to resolve its petition.

Arroyo said that the members of the administration-dominated House of Representatives would likewise be emasculated by the ratification of EO 464.

"It will, but the House is willing to be castrated anyway... We don't want to be castrated, but the House, if they want to be castrated, fine. We wont agree to be castrated. Who wants to be castrated? We lose our masculinity," he said.

FEBRUARY
DI KAMI PALOLOKO!
DI KAMI PALOLOK
DI KAMI PALOLOKO!
DI KAMI PALOLOKO!

BACK TO EDSA JOAN BONDOC
Former DepEd Secretary Butch Abad (from left), Rep. Risa Honteveros, former DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman, Ronald Llamas of Laban ng Masa and Karen Tanada announce the holding of a huge protest rally on Wednesday to mark the first day of the Edsa People Power Revolt 20 years ago.

PhilSports gate electrified – VACC

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
and Margaux C. Ortiz

SOME OF THE VICTIMS OF THE stampede at PhilSports Arena in Pasig City during the anniversary of the "Wowowee" television show more than two weeks ago may have been injured or killed by electrocution much earlier as guards had allegedly charged a gate and steel barriers with electricity prior to the melee, a private anti-crime group reported yesterday.

The new allegation is part of a report the group Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption submitted to the National Bureau of Investigation after reading it out aloud to a group of about 50 survivors who showed up at the stadium yesterday. The VACC has set up a Complaint Desk in front of one of the gates.

VACC founder and head Dante Jimenez said that his group's report was based on affidavits submitted to it by 105 survivors, five of whom had lost relatives in the stampede.

In light of these testimonies, Jimenez said the VACC was urging the families to agree to an exhumation of the bodies of their deceased relatives so autopsies could be performed to determine if electrocution had indeed occurred.

The report also accused the television network ABS-CBN of asking families who lost relatives to sign a waiver to absolve the network of any liability in exchange for financial assistance.

"This is to show to all of you that the system is rolling, that we are doing something," Jimenez told the survivors who showed up at the Complain Desk. He said the desk, set up last week, would be open for one more week to accommodate families who had to attend to the burial of their loved ones first.

VACC had earlier threatened to file a class suit against those who would be found liable for the stampede. But yesterday Jimenez said the group's legal team was still evaluating their legal strategies.

Before listening to the report, the survivors first lit red and white candles on the slope where more than 70 persons were killed on Feb. 4, during what should have been a grand celebration of Wowowee's first anniversary.

Asked if she was interested to file a case against the program organizers, Teresita Ancheta, 66, whose 70-year-old sister Manuela Ara was among those killed, replied she had not yet made up her mind.

VACC volunteer Lloyd Cervantes said some relatives had signed waivers provided by ABS-CBN.

"The victims were under trauma when they signed the waivers. That will be questionable," VACC lawyer Pete Principe said.

Minority starts own campaign vs Cha-cha

By Norman Bordadora

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE MInority yesterday started their own signature campaign to derail the Charter change train started last week by House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

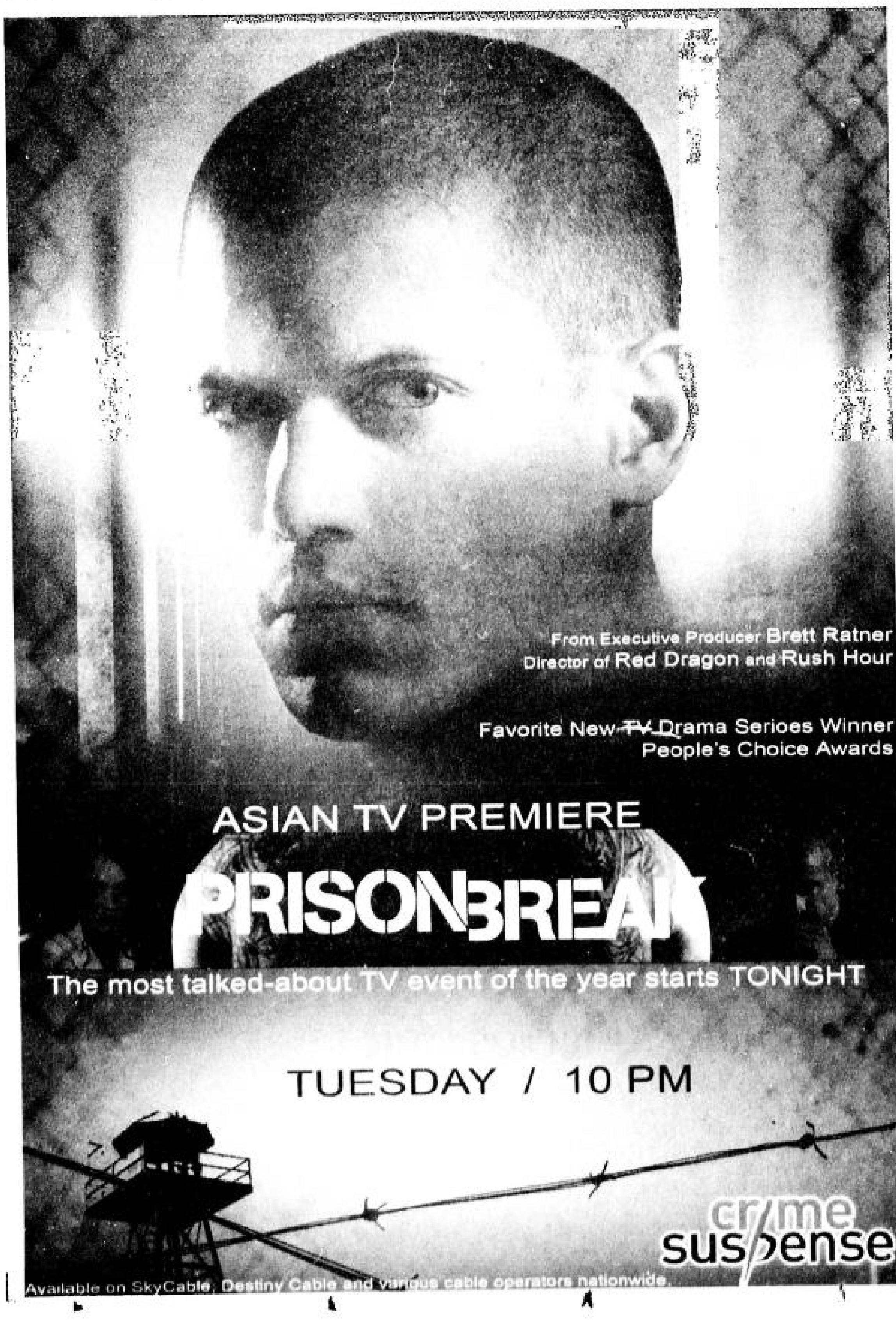
House Minority Leader Francis Escudero of Sorsogon and Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez authored the resolution now being routed among members of the House minority and those who signed the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo in July.

"Give us one to two weeks to gather the signatures," Escudero told reporters at the House minority's weekly news conference.

Escudero and his colleagues in the minority are courting the signatures of at least 42 congressmen to prevent the House majority from getting the 195 signatures that De Venecia and pro-Chacha congressmen need to satisfy what they think is a Constitutional requirement to hasten Charter revisions in Congress.

Last week, De Venecia started gathering signatures to secure the 195 needed to immediately embark on Charter revision.

"We have some members of the (Liberal Party). We may even have a solid (showing from the Nacionalista Party) and some members of the (Nationalist People's Coalition)," said Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla of the minority's chances of thwarting Cha-cha.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NEWSBRIEFS

Misuari case remanded to DOJ

THE MAKATI REGIONAL TRIAL COURT HAS REMANDED the rebellion case filed against jailed Moro rebel leader Nur Misuari and his seven co-accused for a reinvestigation to the Department of Justice. In an order issued Friday, Makati RTC Branch 138 Judge Sixto Marella Jr. suspended for 60 days court proceedings on the rebellion case lodged against Misuari and seven others for allegedly spurring the 2001 Jolo uprising, where some 100 people were killed. Marella noted that a 2002 order by the Municipal Trial Court of Jolo, Sulu and a Dec. 2003 resolution by then DOJ Sec. Simeon Datumanong were still pending. Both ordered the determination of probable cause on the rebellion charges." *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Meralco appeals SC ruling

THE LOPEZ-OWNED MANILA ELECTRIC COMPANY (MERALco) and the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) yesterday appealed a recent Supreme Court ruling voiding Meralco's 13.27 centavo power rate hike. In separate motions, Meralco and the ERC asked the court to set aside its Feb. 2 ruling. In its decision, the SC said the ERC in approving the increase of Meralco's generation charge from P 3.1886 kilowatt hour to P 3.3213 per kWh at the time, had committed "grave abuse of discretion." Meralco claimed that "the implementation of the decision of the court would result in severe repercussions to the entire electric industry and to the public in general, a situation which could not have been contemplated by the framers of the law (Electric Power Industry Reform Act)." *Armand N. Nocum*

Imelda foregoes HK trip

FORMER FIRST LADY IMELDA R. MARCOS YESTERDAY INformed the Sandiganbayan that she would forego her medical treatment in Hong Kong to enable her to visit and help victims of the mudslide stricken town of Saint Bernard, in Southern Leyte. "I'm foregoing my trip to Hong Kong but I will go to (Southern) Leyte instead," she told reporters. "I'll try although I know it's very dangerous because it's raining. I'm a Leytenian, I know my way," Mrs. Marcos said, adding that she was deeply saddened by what happened. The Sandiganbayan earlier allowed Mrs. Marcos to travel to Hong Kong and seek alternative medical treatment for her cough and ailing knees. Mrs. Marcos was allowed a two-week stay in the former British colony from Feb. 7 to Feb. 21. *Nelson F. Flores*

Pinoy hostage in Nigeria safe

THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN NIGERIA SAID YESTERDAY that the Filipino national and eight other expatriates held hostage by armed militants from a barge in the Niger Delta "are all in good health and are being treated well by their captors." In a press statement, Philippine Ambassador to Abuja, Masaranga Umpa, said that barge operator, Willbros Group, relayed this information to the embassy. Aside from the Filipino national, three Americans, two Egyptians, two Thais, and a Briton were snatched while they were on a pipe-laying barge in the Niger Delta by a militant group that had declared "total war" on all foreign oil interests, DFA Undersecretary Esteban Conejos, Jr. said. The DFA withheld the Filipino worker's identity pending ongoing negotiations for the release of the hostages. *Nikko Dizon*

Free-Erap offer a trap – Pimentel

By Philip C. Tubeza

SENATE MINORITY AQUILINO PImentel Jr. said yesterday that Malacañang's offer to broker the temporary release of former President Joseph Estrada was intended to dissuade Estrada from supporting opposition groups that are consolidating against the administration.

Pimentel said he suspected that the offer made by Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor was a "trial balloon" and that Estrada was right in turning it down, "believing it was a trap and another political gimmick of the administration."

He said the offer "should not be taken seriously" unless it came directly from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Why are they now telling Mr. Estrada that they can do something to secure his temporary liberty?," Pimentel said in a statement.

"Weren't they always saying before that it was the policy of Malacañang not to interfere in the court case against the former President because they respect the independence of the judiciary."

Estrada is under arrest at his rest house in Tanay, Rizal while undergoing trial on plunder before the Sandiganbayan.

Pimentel said the offer could be a trial balloon since Defensor made it public even before it could be presented to Estrada. "The Palace was apparently only testing the waters," he said.

Defensor earlier disclosed that three top religious leaders were willing to serve as guarantors for Estrada if the latter was placed under their recognizance.

He said the Palace would not oppose the arrangement.

"Why is Secretary Defensor, whose credibility is doubtful, the one saying so many things about the offer? If this is the idea of President Arroyo, why has she not said anything in favor of the proposal," Pimentel said.

5 Abus killed in clash

GOVERNMENT TROOPS killed five Abu Sayyaf members in a clash in Basilan on Monday, a military official said yesterday.

Col. Darwin Guerra, the commander of the army battalion in the area, said an army patrol battled a band of Abu Sayyaf rebels near the town of Tuburan in the early morning.

The troops recovered the bodies of five gunmen after an hour-long firefight in which four soldiers were wounded, he said. The casualties were airlifted to a military hospital in Zamboanga.

The Abu Sayyaf has waged a 15-year campaign of bombings and kidnappings in Mindanao. US and Filipino intelligence officials say the group was set up with seed money from Osama bin Laden, the leader of the al-Qaida network.

On Monday, annual military exercises started involving troops from the Philippines and the United States, which has been providing counter-terrorist training to Filipino troops. *AFP*

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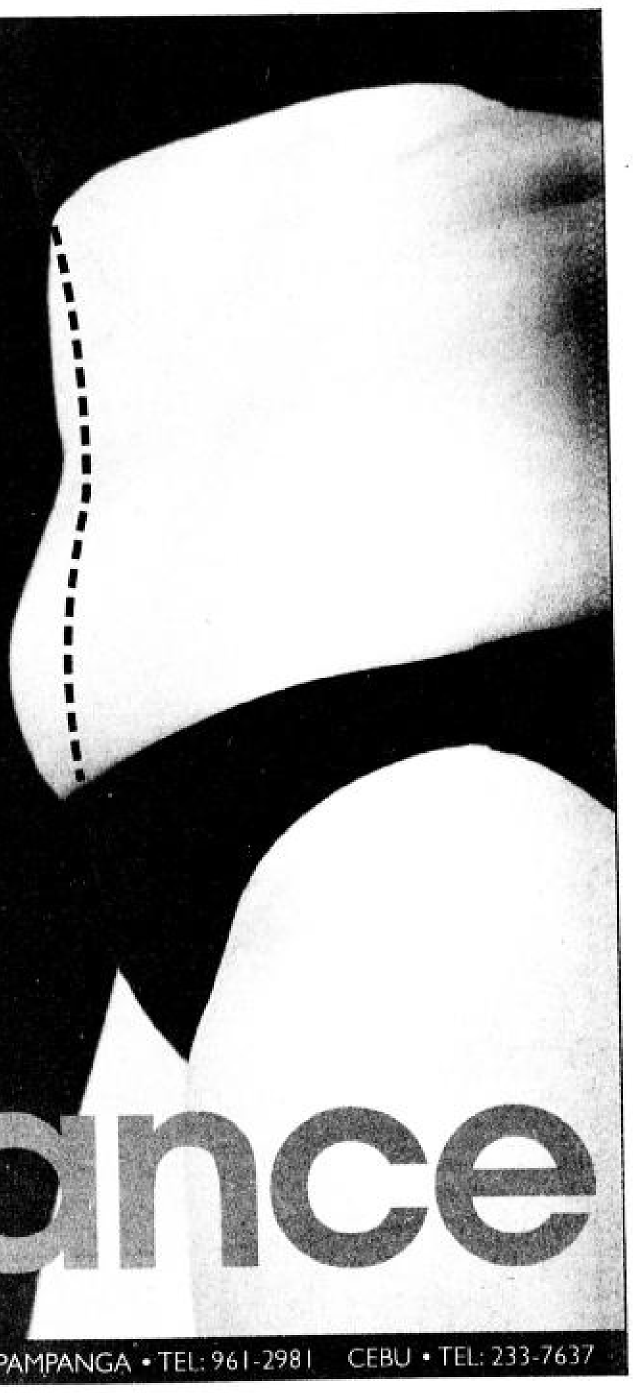

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Innova 2.0 G A/T	100,000	80,041	55,119	43,900	31,327	25,278	21,838
Innova 2.5 G M/T	100,000	79,681	54,871	43,703	31,186	25,164	21,740
Innova 2.0 G M/T	100,000	75,090	51,709	41,187	29,391	23,715	20,487
Innova 2.5 E M/T	100,000	70,949	48,858	38,917	27,771	22,409	19,358
Innova 2.5 J M/T	100,000	62,937	43,341	34,527	24,638	19,881	17,172
Innova 2.0 J M/T	100 000	58 436	40 241	32 060	22 878	18 460	15 944

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TOYOTA *moving forward*

Blasts rock Malacañang, Makati; grenade found in QC

From page A1

dential Security Group (PSG), who rushed to the scene minutes after the incident, immediately said that the explosion was not caused by a bomb.

Bangit said the explosion could have been caused by chemicals found in a plastic garbage trolley.

Lacquer thinner

Later, at a news conference, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said that initial findings by explosive experts showed that the explosion was caused by lacquer thinner that was ignited by a lit cigarette or a burning object.

"This is a result of a chemical reaction," Defensor told reporters five hours after the explosion.

Defensor said the initial PSG report showed "there is no indication or elements that will show that this was an improvised explosive device."

But he was not ruling out that the explosion was an accident or was done intentionally.

Based on the still initial findings, Defensor said the explosion could be part of destabilization attempts against the government.

"As to the individuals who were there, who were involved, the security there and other parallel investigations, we haven't done that yet," he said.

Emergency meeting

Ms Arroyo convened an emergency meeting with select Cabinet members to discuss the explosion.

The meeting came ahead of the President's meeting with the National Security Council scheduled for today.

The explosion shattered the green garbage trolley and scattered the trash, mostly dried leaves. It also broke a branch and frayed leaves of a dwarf coconut tree.

The plastic trash bin was placed in the area by 58-year-old Palace gardener Florentino Caris at around 11 a.m.

A co-worker, who agreed to speak only if he was not identified, said that Caris and other gardeners took their lunch break at that time and resumed work by 1 p.m.

The co-worker said Caris was assigned to the eastern side of the Palace grounds and had used the trash bin to gather leaves.

Caris has been working in Malacañang for 30 years. He was taken in by the PSG for questioning and his superiors did not make him available for interview.

K-9 team

Bearing heavy firearms, PSG guards immediately cordoned the area as two K-9 bomb sniffing dogs were deployed to detect any trace of bomb elements.

Minutes later, explosive experts from the Western Police District in Manila helped in collecting debris for forensic investigation.

"There are no indications that there are explosives based on the reaction of the bomb (sniffing) dogs," Bangit told reporters.

'Very minor explosion'

"Let us not give this incident any more meaning than it really is, a very minor explosion," Government Media Secretary Cerge Remonde, who was the first Palace official on the scene, told reporters.

He said he heard the explosion from his new office at the New Executive Building, less than half a kilometer away.

It was Remonde who told reporters that the blast site was near a marker put up by the International Peace Movement. The white marker's message reads "May Peace Prevail on Earth."

THE REMAINS from a mysterious explosion in the Malacañang grounds are examined by the Presidential Security Group, which so far is being explained as having been caused by a toxic mix of chemicals inside a garbage can. LYN RILLON

A witness described the blast as similar to a "21-man gun salute."

Another witness, Nora, who works at the cooperative store near the RTVM office, said the store shook. She said she and other employees ran to the spot where the blast occurred and found smoke coming from the garbage bin.

Fear and panic

Hours before a news conference at the Palace, Defensor told the INQUIRER and a television interviewer that the Palace explosion and the discovery of explosives around Metro Manila yesterday could be the work of some group out to "create fear and panic" among the people.

He said the explosion was also meant to "sow intrigue" in the PSG, which is tasked with protecting the President and Malacañang.

But Defensor took back his earlier statement saying that it was based on the initial report that a bomb had caused the explosion.

Movement of people

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who was attending the thanksgiving lunch with officials of the IPO, said he did not hear the blast and only got wind of it when someone sent him a text message.

Gonzalez said that at the emergency meeting, security matters were discussed, including the movement of people from the provinces to Metro Manila apparently in preparation for the protest rallies marking the 20th anniversary of People Power I this week.

They also discussed threats from rightist groups but the justice secretary said the military was in control.

Ping pong ball

An hour after the explosion rocked Malacañang, another jolted a residential area in Makati City.

What looked like a harmless ping pong ball exploded in a vacant lot at the corner of M. Reyes and Jerry Streets in Barangay Pio del Pilar in Makati City at around 1:30 p.m. yesterday, injuring a girl.

Chief Insp. Manuel Santos, chief of the Makati Police Department's Police Community Precinct 4, said the ping pong ball turned out to be an improvised explosive device, which had been filled with gunpowder and shrapnel.

The victim was taken to the Ospital ng Makati for treatment of gashes on her legs. Santos said the girl's wounds were mostly shallow cuts due to the shrapnel.

So loud

"The sound was so loud, that's why my neighbors went out of their houses to see what happened," said Romy Reyes, 55, a longtime resident.

In Quezon City, an M26 fragmentation grenade was discovered at the National Printing Office with its safety pin missing.

A nurse identified as Josephine Cocjin saw the "round, light-green metallic object" in front of the NPO main office on Edsa corner NIA Road at 6:55 a.m.

Investigators believed whoever left the grenade had intended to set it off, because the safety pin had been removed.

Earlier this year, the government said there had been unsuccessful efforts by unidentified groups to recruit military units to launch a coup against the President.

Ms Arroyo survived a brief military uprising by more than 200 soldiers who took over the country's financial district in Makati in July 2003. Last year, the President also survived an impeachment complaint launched by the opposition, which accused her of stealing the May 2004 election. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Tarra V. Quismundo, DJ Yap and AFP*

OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Malacañang, Manila

Her Excellency,

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is an important commodity for most households and the continuing increase in the price thereof is one of public concern. With the passage of Republic Act No. 8479, otherwise known as the Downstream Oil Deregulation Act of 1998, the independent or new players offer prices reasonably lower than those of the oil majors. To date, about 25% of the market share are LPG brands of the independent players. The oil majors, however, want to stifle competition and, in effect, deprive the consumers of the choice of purchasing the LPG brand that appeals to them.

LPG trading is peculiar in that a consumer who purchases LPG did not have to buy the same brand of the cylinder he owns but is required to surrender an LPG cylinder, whether of the same brand or another brand. Because the total market share of the independent players is already significant, LPG cylinders of the independent players are transferred to the oil majors and vice-versa. During the time of DOE Secretary Vincent Perez, discussions to provide mechanism for LPG cylinder exchange and swapping was pursued because LPG cylinder exchange in fact occur. Even as the oil majors through their representatives participated in the series of discussions, there was refusal to sign the draft Memorandum of Agreement. Ms. Zenaida Monsada, Director of the Oil Industry Management Bureau had presented the so-called Thai model of cylinder exchange and swapping as an alternative but had not taken further action. There has been no further meeting that has been called on the matter by the incumbent DOE Secretary.

The LPG brands acquired by the independent players in the course of trading had been the subject of flag down by law enforcement agencies, raids of the establishment of the independent players, and various cases filed before government agencies. The sole purpose thereof is to paralyze the operations of these independent players. The long arm of the law is used to oppress and not to promote government policy competition. Serious efforts of the independent players to find an equitable and long-term solution have been unsuccessful.

Even the establishment of an LPG cylinder maintenance fund to be shouldered by the independent players have been curiously turned down. The money to purchase new cylinders and repair dilapidated ones was volunteered by independent players, with oil majors as collecting agency only, but the latter has not shown any interest in helping the industry..

The existence of the independent players, as going concerns, are now under threat, and the only direction is for the oil majors to regain an oligopoly of the LPG sector. The trend toward liberalization and free competition is undermined. Unless the appropriate government agencies take immediate measures to address this problem, the consuming public will suffer from having to limit their purchases from the oil majors, without recourse to reasonably priced LPG products offered by independent players.

Aside from such deprivation to the consuming public, thousands who depend on their livelihood from the independent players stand to lose their employment or sources of income.

We appeal for positive action by her Excellency on this matter.

LPGMarketer's Association
(LPGMA)
LPGRefillers Association
(LPGRA)

ADVT

Series of explosive protests until GMA quits, says group

From page A1

Reformist AFP (YOUNG and RAFP) said "the explosive protest activities will continue and even escalate until Gloria Arroyo leaves the presidency of the Philippines and departs from Malacañang Palace."

But the Young Officers Union of the new generation (YOUng) distanced itself from the statement of the YOUNG and RAFP.

'Gov't did it'

"That's fake. Maybe that's theirs [the government's]," said the source from the YOUng, who asked not to be named.

The source from the YOUng did not want to be identified because the group was supposed to be involved in clandestine operations directed at Ms Arroyo's ouster. The source has spoken on behalf of the YOUng since the group issued its first statement mid-last year.

Previous statements by the YOUng were signed by a certain Lt. Col. Arsenio Alcantara, an obvious pseudonym.

The source also denied that his group had linked up with the YOUNG and RAFP, which were unheard of until yesterday.

"Maybe they're creating a scenario to justify the declaration of a state of emergency," said the source.

Unconfirmed

Also yesterday, a man claiming to be 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, one of the four Magdalo rebel officers who escaped from an Army detention facility on Jan. 17, was interviewed over RMN radio.

But it was not confirmed whether the caller was really San Juan. The caller did not sound like San Juan.

San Juan was interviewed over ABS-CBN shortly after he and three others escaped. At the time he said he and the others were out to oust the President, but he never resorted to name-calling.

In the interview over RMN yesterday, the caller claiming to be San Juan referred to the President as a "monster" and warned his group would be "taking action before the end of February."

In its statement, the YOUNG and RAFP called on all members of the Cabinet to resign immediately or "they shall become part of the explosive protest that will increase in degree in the coming days."

"We likewise call on all generals and officers of the AFP and PNP whom Gloria Arroyo has not totally corrupted to withdraw their support for her to join us as we definitely move to remove this impostor President."

Accidental?

At a briefing six hours after the blast, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said he was "surprised" that the rebellious groups of soldiers would own up to the blasts in Malacañang and Makati considering that Malacañang's investigation showed that these were random and probably accidental.

He noted that a soldier had already admitted to accidentally dropping the grenade found in Quezon City.

A fragmentation grenade was discovered yesterday in front of the National Printing Office in Quezon City.

"This is definitely not an orchestrated effort or a move being undertaken by these groups. If they claim they are doing these, and indeed if they did these, that is the height of unpatriotism in the wake of what we are doing in Southern Leyte," Defensor said.

He was referring to the rescue operations in the province where a landslide buried close to 2,000 people.

Business as usual

Defensor said the government would not benefit from orchestrating the blasts as claimed by the opposition.

Members of the Cabinet are not "scared" by the threat of the YOUNG-RAFP and neither is the President who will continue with her scheduled "business as usual," he said.

Defensor belittled the YOUNG and RAFP as he raised serious doubts about the capability of the group to carry out its threat.

"I think this is the same group that threatened me in the past. I don't even know if the group exists or if it is a genuine organization," said Defensor.

When asked whether the blast was an inside job, Defensor said: "We can't say for sure, that's a possibility."

'Protests of the people'

The YOUNG and RAFP said that they were committed as protector of the people and the state.

"We love our people, especially those who suffered so much hunger and poverty. We shall endeavor to deliver our people from the corruption of our traditional politicians, the treason of our leaders, the immorality of those in government and the insensitivity of the Filipino elite so that our generation and the generations to come will have a brighter future," they said.

RP eyes new security accord with the US

THE PHILIPPINES IS NEGOTIATING A MORE modern security arrangement with the United States to cover militants, bird flu, piracy, natural disasters and other threats, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said yesterday.

The US has been a major source of military aid for the poorly funded armed forces in the form of training and hardware such as rifles, gunboats and helicopters.

Washington has poured in more than $300 million in security assistance since 2000, excluding funds to build roads, bridges, water systems and schools in poor communities.

Cruz said new threats had emerged since the early 1950s when the Philippines signed a mutual defense treaty with the US to align itself against the threat of communism.

"One clear threat that has emerged is terrorism," Cruz told Reuters in an interview. "It will be more fitting and proper and more effective if we have a mechanism and framework that will address the emerging threats."

The military has been fighting communist and Muslim insurgencies since the late 1960s and, more recently, the influx and influence of regional militants linked to al Qaida.

Cruz, who was President Macapagal-Arroyo's lawyer before she named him defense secretary in August 2004, said Manila also must contend with transnational crime, disaster management and the spread of diseases such as bird flu.

He did not specify when negotiations for the new pact would wrap up, but officials in his department said they expected the agreement, supplementing the existing security treaty, to be ready for signing by April.

One official said the arrangement would also expand the role of other agencies engaged in security work, such as the justice, interior, foreign affairs and national security departments.

Cruz said he was also studying status of forces agreements used by the likes of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as templates for similar pacts Manila is seeking with Australia and several of its Southeast Asian neighbors.

"I am a lawyer with experience in criminal jurisdiction and law," he said. "I think it's important the Philippines comes up with an agreement that respects the criminal jurisdiction and sovereignty of Filipinos."

He said the future security pacts would be consistent with the Philippine constitution and laws to avoid a repeat of the controversy generated by a rape case against four US Marines after they had taken part in military exercises last year.

Philippine and US troops hold an average of 20 war games and small-unit training exercises every year to test military readiness plans against an external attack in the Pacific.

The presence of US troops is covered by a separate pact, the Visiting Forces Agreement signed in 1998 after the Philippine Senate terminated Washington's leases for military bases in 1991.

Beyond training and advising Philippine troops, US soldiers have played big roles in disaster relief.

Some 3,000 of the 5,000 US troops now taking part in annual war games were diverted at the weekend to a village in Southern Leyte buried by a collapsed mountainside after weeks of rain.

Reuters

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bin Laden vows never to be taken alive

CAIRO, EGYPT—OSAMA BIN LADEN PROMISED never to be captured alive and declared the US had resorted to the same "barbaric" tactics used by Saddam Hussein, according to an audiotape purportedly by the al-Qaida leader that was posted Monday on a militant website.

The tape appeared to be a complete version of one that was first broadcast Jan. 19 on Al-Jazeera, the pan-Arab satellite channel, in which Bin Laden offered the United States a long-term truce but also said his al-Qaida terror network would soon launch a fresh attack on American soil.

"I have sworn to only live free. Even if I find bitter the taste of death, I don't want to die humiliated or deceived," Bin Laden said, in the 11-minute-26-second tape.

In drawing the comparison to American military behavior in Iraq to that of Saddam, the speaker said:

"The jihad is continuing with strength, for Allah be all the credit, despite all the barbarity, the repressive steps taken by the American Army and its agents, to the extent that there is no longer any mentionable difference between this criminality and the criminality of Saddam."

By using that language to describe Saddam, Bin Laden appeared to deny assertions by the Bush administration that the former Iraqi leader had ties to al-Qaida—ties that were given as one rationale for invading Iraq.

Bin Laden also denied Bush administration assertions that it was better to fight terrorists in Iraq than on US soil.

"The war against America and its allies has not remained confined to Iraq as he (Bush) claims, but rather Iraq has become a point of attraction and recruitment of qualified forces," the speaker said.

"What's more, the mujahideen, by the grace of Allah, have been able to penetrate time after time all the security procedures undertaken by the oppressive countries of the alliance as evidence by what you have seen, in terms of bombings in the capital of the most important European states."

The tape's release in January came days after a US airstrike in Pakistan that was targeting Bin Laden's deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri, and reportedly killed four leading al-Qaida figures, including possibly al-Zawahri's son-in-law. There was no mention of the attack on the segments that were broadcast.

In the full tape that was posted Monday, Bin Laden engaged in renewed propaganda, mocking US President George Bush's aircraft carrier declaration in April 2003 that major conflict in Iraq had ended.

"The Pentagon's figures indicate an increase in the number of your killed and injured in addition to the massive material losses, not to mention the collapse of troop morale and the increase of the suicide rates among them," the Bin Laden voice said.

Speaking directly to the American people, the speaker said:

"You can rescue whatever you can from this hell. The solution is in your hands, if their (US troops') situation matters to you at all."

It was the first tape from the al-Qaida leader in more than a year—the longest period without a message since the Sept. 11 2001 suicide hijackings in the United States.

The CIA last month authenticated the voice on the initial recording as that of Bin Laden, an agency official told The Associated Press at the time. The al-Qaida leader is believed to be hiding in the border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The last audiotape purported to be from Bin Laden was broadcast in December 2004 by Al-Jazeera. In that recording, he endorsed Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi as his deputy in Iraq and called for a boycott of Iraqi elections. *AP*

Israel cuts off money flow to Palestinians

GAZA—ISRAEL HALTED ITS MONTHLY transfer of millions of dollars to the Palestinian Authority ahead of the formation of a Hamas-led Cabinet, a move President Mahmoud Abbas said had plunged the Palestinians into a "financial crisis."

In an apparent nod to international calls to avoid adding to Palestinian hardship, interim Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's Cabinet decided against implementing tougher sanctions Israeli defense officials had proposed to try to weaken Hamas.

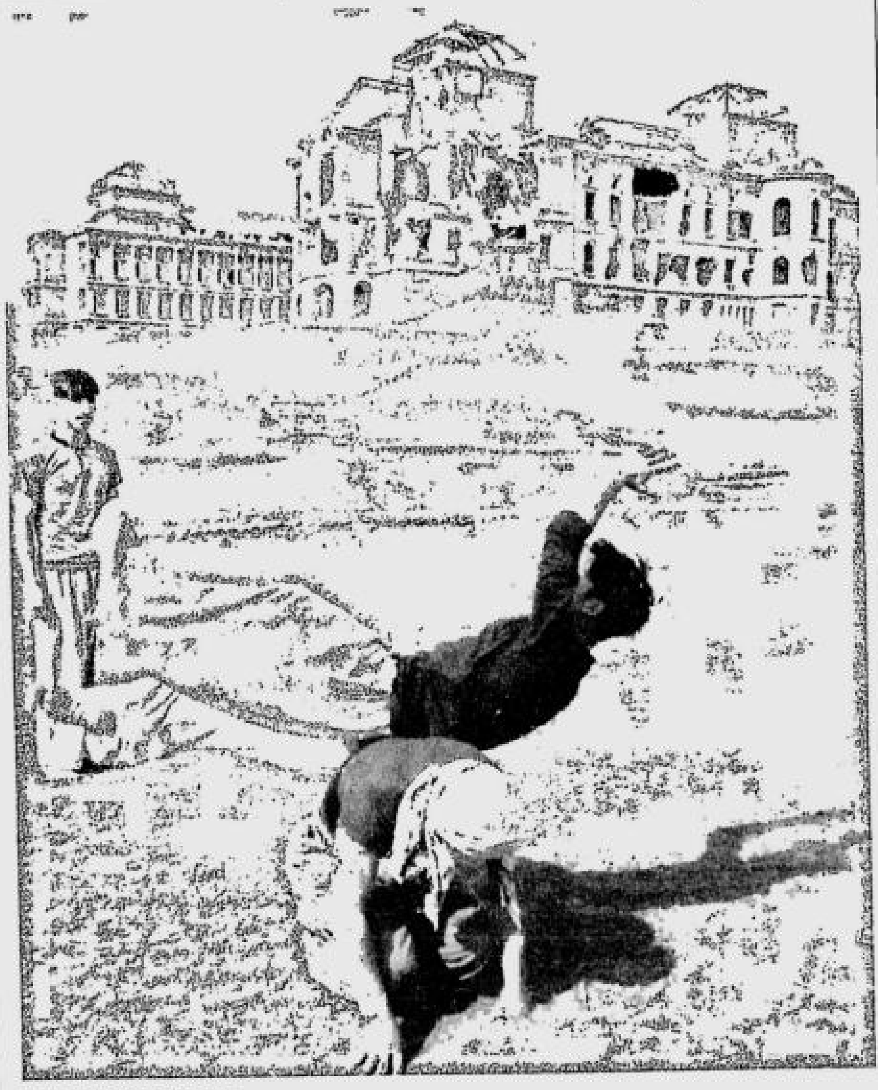
"Unfortunately, the pressures have begun and the support and the aid started to decrease ... therefore we are currently in a real financial crisis," Abbas told reporters in Gaza, ahead of a meeting this week with Hamas leaders to discuss a unity Cabinet.

Israel and the United States have called on other nations to boycott Hamas, which crushed Abbas's long-dominant Fatah faction in a Jan. 25 election, winning 74 parliamentary seats, until it disarms and recognizes the Jewish state and interim peace deals.

The United States, the Jewish state's biggest ally, has asked the Palestinian Authority to return $50 million of its own aid to ensure it does not reach Hamas. The Islamic group is sworn to Israel's destruction.

Israeli defense ministry officials last week recommended stopping all tax revenue transfers and proposed barring all Palestinians from working in Israel and from traveling between Gaza and the West Bank across Israeli territory.

On Sunday, the Cabinet announced a permanent halt to the monthly transfer of about $50 million in tax revenues Israel collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority each month. *Reuters*



LINGERING SCAR

Afghan youths perform gymnastics on a patch of grass in front of the ruined Darulaman Palace, in Kabul, Feb. 20. Many sites of historical interest across the Central Asian nation still bear the scars of civil wars and fighting from the last 25 years. AFP

Bird flu continues advance in Europe

PARIS—LETHAL BIRD FLU CONtinued its advance across Europe Sunday with more infected birds found in Germany and Italy, while in India seven people were under observation with symptoms of the disease.

The H5N1 strain of the flu which can be potentially fatal to humans was detected for the first time on the German mainland in the northeast state of Mecklenburg-Pomerania, bringing the total number of cases in the country to 61, animal health experts said.

In Italy, the Institute of Animal Health in the northeastern city of Padua announced the virus had been detected in a total of 16 birds in the country.

H5N1 was also confirmed in Tuzla and Navodari on the shores of the Black Sea in Romania, bringing to 33 the number of sites where it has been found nationwide, a veterinary official said.

Samples from the latest Romanian cases were sent to the European Union reference laboratory in Weybridge, Britain, to establish whether it was the highly pathogenic form of the H5N1 virus.

French authorities vowed to spare no effort in containing avian influenza after the country became the sixth in the European Union, and the most westerly, to be hit by the virus.

Europe's top producer and the world's fourth-largest exporter of poultry, France confirmed late Saturday that H5N1 had been identified in a wild duck found dead in the central-eastern Ain department.

Since 2003, over 90 people have died from bird flu in China, Southeast Asia, Iraq and eastern Turkey after contracting the H5N1 virus from infected poultry. No human infections have been reported in Europe.

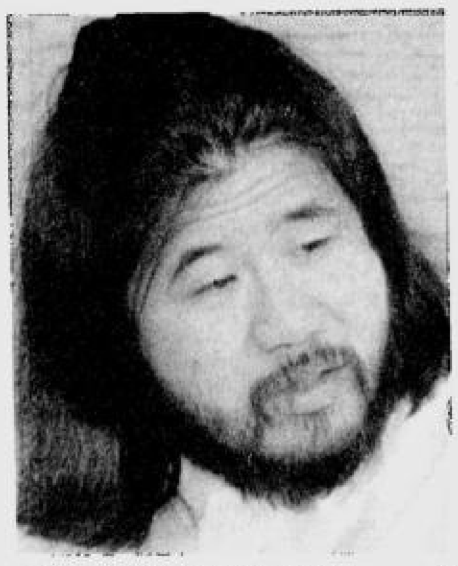
While the virus cannot now be passed between humans, experts fear that if it acquires this ability it could cause a pandemic with casualties running into the millions.

French Health Minister Xavier Bertrand stressed that the dead duck was an isolated case, although food authorities said tests were continuing on some 15 birds found dead in various parts of the country.

"There will be no financial or economic obstacle in preparing France in the face of these risks," he said on Europe 1 radio, as the country's main farmers' union called for more state help in tackling the threat.

The plight of EU poultry producers, faced with plummeting sales, will be discussed by agriculture ministers Monday. Sales are down by 70 percent in Italy, 40 to 50 percent in Greece and 15 percent in France. *AFP*

Former cult leader fit for trial in appeal, say psychiatrists



ASAHARA in Nov. 30, 1989 photo AP

TOKYO—PSYCHIATRISTS HAVE CONcluded a former cult leader sentenced to die for the deadly 1995 nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subways is mentally fit to stand trial if his appeal goes ahead, a court official said Monday.

Shoko Asahara, the former guru of the Aum Shinrikyo cult, was convicted in 2004 and sentenced to hang in the gas assault and other attacks that killed a total of 27 people and injured thousands of others.

Asahara frequently dozed off, mumbled incoherently and made bizarre gestures during his first trial, which lasted eight years. His lawyers have appealed the ruling, arguing that he was unfit for trial and demanding psychiatric tests.

But court-appointed psychiatrists submitted a report to the Tokyo High Court on Monday saying Asahara "has not lost the ability to stand trial," a court official said Monday on condition of anonymity, citing protocol.

If the court rules Asahara is competent, his appeal still could be thrown out because the defense team missed a deadline for filing an explanation of why they were appealing, news reports said. The lawyers have said they missed the deadline because they could not communicate with Asahara.

Asahara lawyer Akio Matsushita said in an e-mail statement he could not comment on the court decision because he had not read the evaluation report. Another defense team member, Takeshi Matsui, could not be reached.

Asahara was convicted of masterminding the Tokyo assault, in which members of the doomsday cult released deadly *sarin* gas on trains converging on the government district in central Tokyo.

The attack killed 12 people, sent thousands to the hospital and paralyzed the center of the city.

Asahara was also convicted of plotting a 1994 gas attack in the central Japanese city of Matsumoto that killed seven people, the kidnapping and murder of an anticult lawyer and his family, and other slayings.

Asahara's defense has claimed the guru, who was born Chizuo Matsumoto, suffers from pathological mental stress caused by confinement. That assessment was backed up on Monday by an expert who examined him recently.

"Matsumoto does not respond when spoken to, or even when touched—he's incapable of any form of communication whatsoever," said Masaaki Noda, a psychopathology expert who visited the suspect with the defense team last month.

"His condition is deteriorating steadily. There is no way he is fit to stand trial," Noda said. *AP*

STAR ON PARADE

Lili, a one-year-old English Bulldog waits to walk in the 13th annual Beggin' Strips Barkus Pet Parade, Feb. 19 in the Soulard neighborhood of St. Louis. AP

Astronomers list likely stars that can support ET life

By Jean-Louis Santini

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI—US ASTRONOMERS have come up with a short list of five stars in the Milky Way galaxy that are most likely to support extraterrestrial life.

The stars were chosen based on a number of criteria, including size, composition, age and color, that would make them similar to the sun and enable planets resembling Earth to orbit them, said Margaret Turnbull of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Turnbull's list would enable astronomers to point telescopes toward the stars with the most potential of sending radio signals from extraterrestrial life.

"These are places I would want to live if God were to put our planet around another star," Turnbull said on Saturday at a conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in St. Louis, Missouri.

The list was developed to guide the use of Nasa's new powerful orbiting observatories, or the Terrestrial Planet Finder, which will search for Earth-like planets.

"There are 400 billion stars in the galaxy, and obviously we are not going to point the Terrestrial Planet Finder at every one of them," Turnbull said.

Among the most promising sun-like stars was beta CVn, about 26 light years from Earth in the constellation Canes Venatici. One light year is equivalent to 9.5 billion kilometers.

Turnbull and her colleagues initially set out to select a dozen stars that were the most promising and sufficiently close to the Earth's solar system.

In 2003, after a painstaking study of close to 120,000 stars, the team of astronomers came up with a catalogue of 129 "habitable stellar systems."

Another star on the short list, Pegasus 51, was made famous in 1995 when Swiss astronomers discovered the first planet outside the solar system. The giant planet resembling Jupiter orbits Pegasus 51.

A star named 16 sco, a popular target for planet searches, also made the list. The star is located in the Scorpion constellation near the center of the Milky Way and is virtually a twin of the sun, according to Turnbull.

To be considered as potential homes for intelligent life to evolve, stars had to be at least 3 billion years old.

Turnbull said the list was merely a starting point and it remained difficult to rank stars as more or less likely to shelter life.

"There are inevitable uncertainties in how we understand these stars," she said. "If I took the top 100, it would be very difficult for me to tell which is the best."

The list will provide potential targets for the Terrestrial Planet Finder, which was originally set to be launched in 2016 but has been postponed due to federal budget constraints.

Research for the list was sponsored by Nasa and the privately funded Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (Seti) organization. The institute was created in 1984 by the renown astronomer Carl Sagan, who died in 1996. *AFP*

French envoy says Guantanamo an 'embarrassment'

WASHINGTON—THE BRITISH, FRENCH AND German ambassadors to Washington said Sunday that the United States must close its Guantanamo "war on terror" detention camp which the French envoy called "an embarrassment."

The ambassadors stepped up international pressure on US authorities after a report by UN human rights experts called for the camp at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba to be shut as soon as possible.

"Guantanamo is an embarrassment, and so it has to be solved one way or the other," said French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte during an appearance by the three envoys on CNN television. *AFP*

GMA, FVR to attend separate Edsa rites

By Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO AND former President Fidel Ramos will attend separate events to mark the 20th anniversary of Edsa I this week.

There is no rift, according to Palace officials. The two leaders just have different schedules.

In the program of activities organized by Malacañang, Ms Arroyo and Ramos were supposed to attend wreath-laying rites at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on Feb. 22.

But Ramos said he had been invited to several photo exhibits on Edsa I all over Metro Manila on the same day, "thus, it would be 'appropriate' if the President would be the main guest of the event," the former President told Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Presidential Adviser for Political Affairs Gabriel Claudio.

Ms Arroyo will be assisted in the wreath-laying rites by Defense Sec. Avelino Cruz, Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Generoso Senga, and members of the newly-reorganized Edsa People Power Commission.

Asked if Ramos was trying to distance himself from Ms Arroyo, Ermita said the two leaders had different schedules for the Feb. 22 to 25 celebration. Unfortunately, there would be no occasion for them to be on the same stage in any of the events.

Ermita said Ramos was attending the Feb. 25 event at the People Power Monument with Vice President Noli de Castro. Ms Arroyo, on the other hand, would be in Bulacan, inaugurating housing projects for soldiers.

Claudio said Ramos' program of activities had been set before he got his invitation to attend the Palace-organized events.

Rep. Imee Marcos, meanwhile, believes Edsa I 20 years ago made life worse for the people.

The daughter of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos yesterday said that Edsa I opened the flood gates of extra-legal and extra-constitutional change.

"Edsa I is a failure! Corruption only became worse and Edsa failed to cleanse the grime in the government bureaucracy," Marcos said in a statement five days before the country marks the 20th year of her family's flight from Malacañang.

"Poverty is at its worse and basic services that government should provide for the people are now lost," she added.

Marcos said that unlike the time of her father, criminality and terror now haunt Filipinos. The late president always took pride in the way Martial Law brought discipline to what he called the New Society, she added.

She said that even the country's self-sufficiency in food production suffered after the Marcoses left the country.

Ocean park to rise at Luneta Boardwalk

By Leila B. Salaverria

A MALAYSIAN-CHINESE CONSORTIUM HAS obtained the go-signal of the Board of Investments to build an ocean park at the Luneta Boardwalk in Manila at a cost of P1.1 billion.

Robert Dean Barbers, general manager of the Philippine Tourism Authority, said the project's approval was another step toward bringing in revenues for the country and generating jobs for Filipinos.

The China Oceanis Group Ltd. (COGL), the consortium which will build the ocean park, will lease the 1.2 hectare Luneta Boardwalk at P16.5 million a year. The rental cost will then increase by 10 percent in succeeding years.

The ocean park is expected to generate some 2,000 jobs.

Barbers said the project would not entail any sovereign guarantee by the government.

The PTA and the COGL signed a memorandum of agreement in April last year for the construction of the ocean park.

Under the MOA, the PTA awarded the COGL a 25-year lease contract for the boardwalk, while the COGL agreed to shoulder the cost of constructing the ocean park.

The ocean park will feature a walk-through aquarium, a sea turtles area, a cactus garden and even a swimming area. The COGL also plans to build a plaza for special events and areas for shops and restaurants, and to develop the area fronting the boardwalk into a park.

The Luneta Boardwalk, located behind the Quirino Grandstand, was constructed after the issuance of Proclamation 69 dated Feb. 19, 1999, which required the PTA to convert portions of Manila Bay into special tourist zones.

Coalition vs child labor formed

A COALITION OF MORE THAN 30 GROUPS – from government agencies, nongovernment organizations, and people's and children's associations – will be launched on Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. at the Bulwagang Tandang Sora at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.

The National Coalition Against Child Labor in Commercial Agriculture has appealed to all sectors to get involved in eradicating child labor.

"Like their peers, child laborers are entitled to basic rights — adequate parental care and guidance, the right to play, and leisure and cultural activities to enhance their physical and intellectual development, and to socialize with their peers for their social development," the coalition said.

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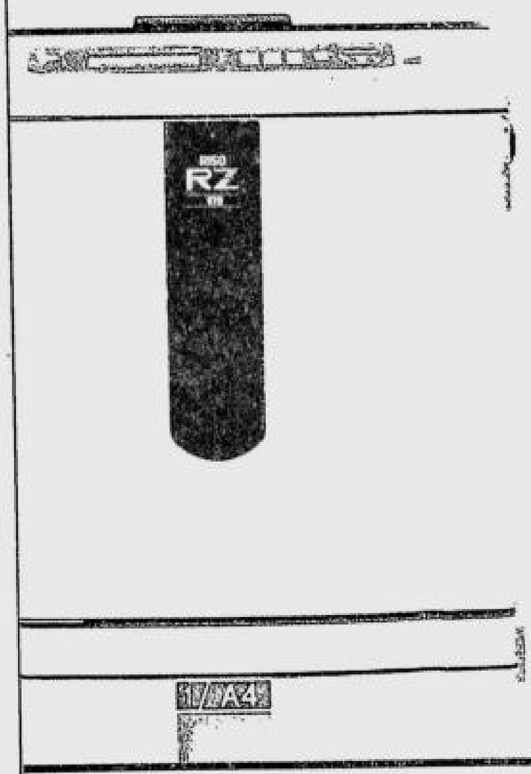

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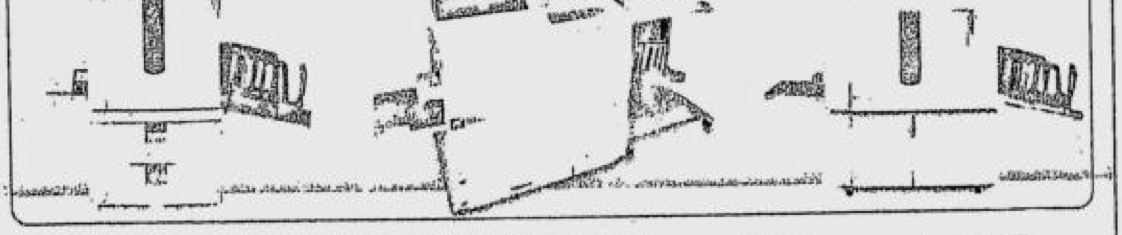

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17 Central Luzon villages 'high-risk'

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—AT LEAST 17 UPLAND villages in three Central Luzon provinces are at "high-risk" to landslides, according to the chief geologist of the regional Mines and Geosciences Bureau here.

Orlando Pineda identified the highly vulnerable communities as Paltic, Caragsacan, Tanawan and Davil-Davilan in Dingalan town, Dimanayat and Diteki in San Luis town, Villa Maria in Maria Aurora town, Amper and Dinadiawan in Dipaculao town, all in Aurora; Labi in Bongabon town, Sawmill, South Poblacion, Malinao and Pantoc in Gabaldon town, all in Nueva Ecija; and Maamot, Sula and Lubigan in San Jose town in Tarlac.

Pineda said the risks in these villages were determined after a geo-hazard mapping last year.

Straddling the Central Luzon parts of the Sierra Madre and Zambales mountain ranges, these communities experienced landslides following four successive typhoons in November and December 2004.

MGB officials declared Paltic and Villa Maria as "no man's lands," meaning these were not suitable anymore for human settlement.

More than 100 people died in Paltic and five others in Villa Maria at the height of Typhoon Winnie in 2004 when debris from the mountains rolled down and the rivers there changed course, burying the villages.

Pineda said residents in San Miguel in Bulacan experienced damming last year and should also guard against a repeat of a flash flood.

According to him, Villa Maria, Diteki and Dimanayat face isolation as these are bounded by two rivers bulging now with debris. Rescue and relief missions there are possible only through air operations.

On Monday, Pineda advised Governors Bellaflor Angara-Castillo of Aurora, Tomas Joson II of Nueva Ecija, Jose Yap of Tarlac and Josefina de la Cruz of Bulacan to urge vigilance among the residents living in those areas.

Other parts of the country were also found to be landslide prone.

In Sitio Calambuan, Tayasan town, continuous rains brought a landslide. The site is 90 km north of Dumaguete City.

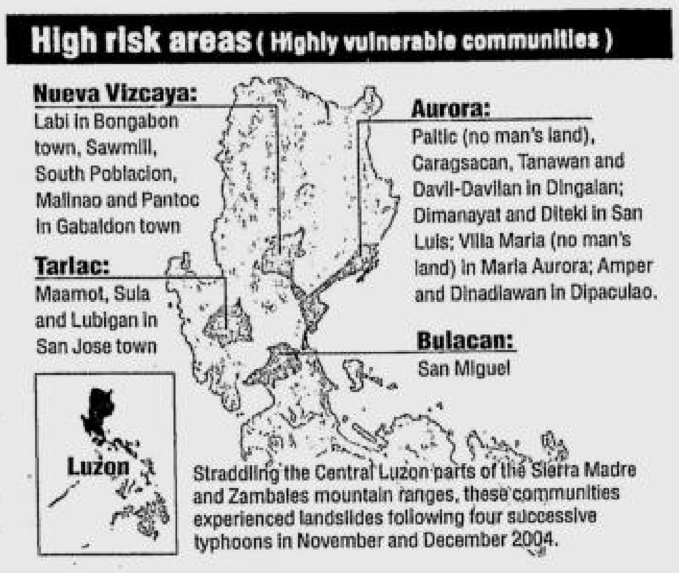
Richard Dayucos, village captain of Ilaya, said no one was reported hurt although the landslide damaged crops and pieces of property in a three-hectare area.

The landslide happened on Friday, two hours before the landslide in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte.

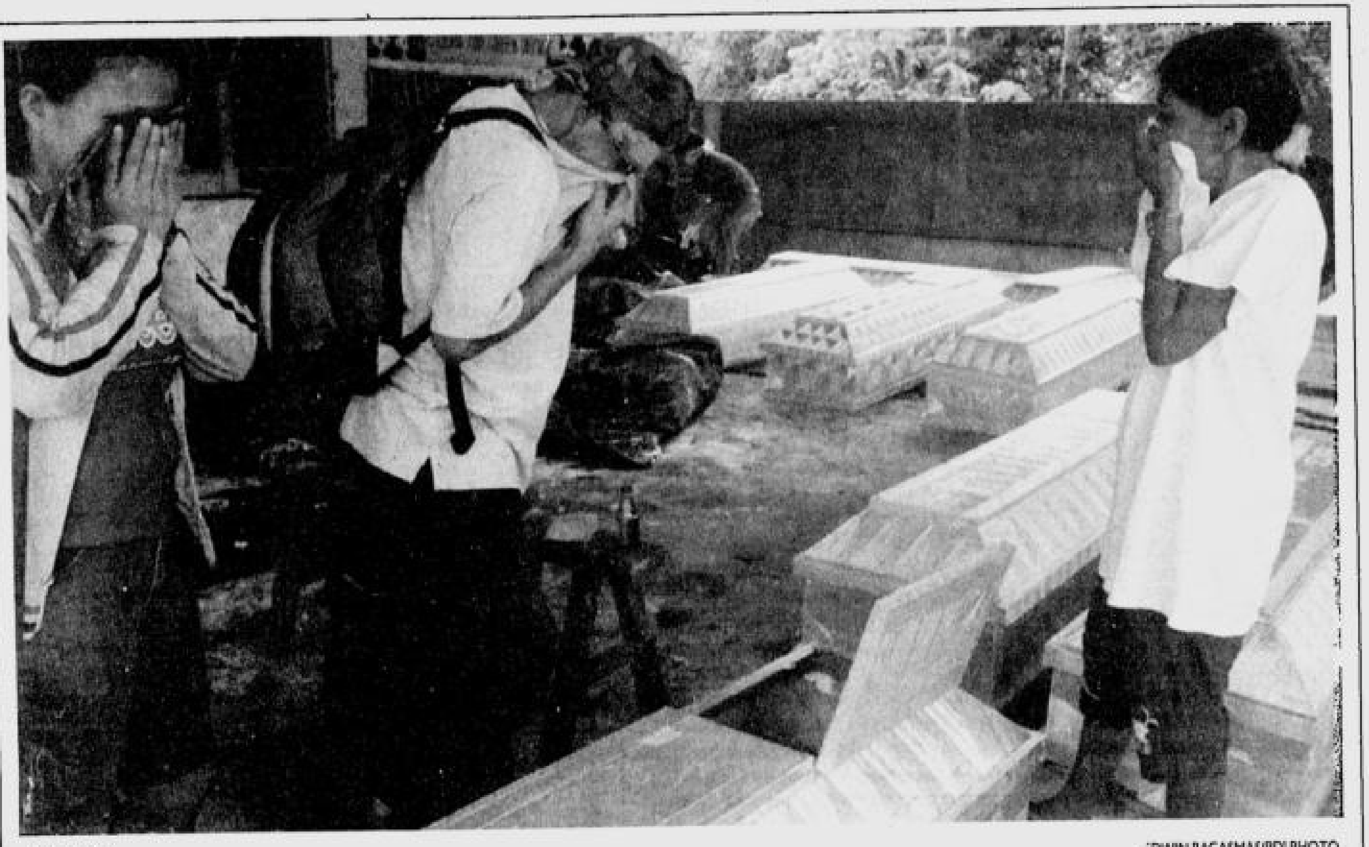
Residents of Ilaya Village have moved out of the place since the 1980s when a river overflowed and brought devastation.

The landslide brought boulders and white silica sand down a 100-meter slope and turned a portion of the Ilaya River into a lake 100 meters wide.

Dario Amistoso, a resident of Barangay Ilaya, said he could hear the landslide from his house some 200 meters away. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk with a report from Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*


High risk areas (Highly vulnerable communities)
Nueva Vizcaya:
Labi in Bongabon town, Sawmill, South Poblacion, Malinao and Pantoc in Gabaldon town
Tarlac:
Maamot, Sula and Lubigan in San Jose town
Aurora:
Paltic (no man's land), Caragsacan, Tanawan and Davil-Davilan in Dingalan; Dimanayat and Diteki in San Luis; Villa Maria (no man's land) in Maria Aurora; Amper and Dinadiawan in Dipaculao.
Bulacan:
San Miguel
Luzon

Straddling the Central Luzon parts of the Sierra Madre and Zambales mountain ranges, these communities experienced landslides following four successive typhoons in November and December 2004.



EDWIN BACASMAS/PDI PHOTO

DEATH

A woman, with her son, breaks down after seeing the remains of her husband in a makeshift mortuary in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, who was among probably hundreds of residents of Barangay Guinsaugon who died in a landslide that erased the entire village from the map.

4 Central Mindanao areas tagged landslide-prone

KORONADAL CITY—AT LEAST four areas had been identified landslide-prone in Central Mindanao, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in Central Mindanao said on Monday.

Jaime Flores, MGB division chief, said these include Barangay Ned in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, site of an oil exploration project and Barangay Kematu in T'boli, also in South Cotabato, where sluice mining has been going on for months now.

Flores said other areas where landslide could possibly occur are the Daguma mountain range, which stretches from Maasim, Sarangani to Isulan, Sultan Kudarat and Malalag, a border town of Davao del Sur and Sarangani.

South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Fuentes said the provincial disaster coordinating council also identified some areas of Banga town, particularly those near the Allay Valley as landslide prone areas.

In Butuan City, the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) in Caraga said flood-induced landslides could also hit the region.

"Aside from high rainfall, our region has become a landslide-prone area because of forest denudation," Salvador Estudillo, OCD-Caraga chief, said.

He did not specify though which areas of the province are most likely to be hit by mudslides.

Caraga is composed of the two Surigao provinces, Agusan del Sur and Agusan del Norte.

Estudillo said that with the reality, OCD has already formulated disaster management plans with local government units.

In Pagadian City, a church-based environmental group urged the government to close existing mining operations and to cancel mining application permits in Zamboanga Peninsula following Saturday's landslide that killed five people in a mining area in Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur.

EarthLink chair Rudy Arpon said the onslaught of the La Niña phenomenon poses great danger to communities living near existing mining sites. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Michael Sarcauga and Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Murder suspect slain

BACOLOD CITY—One of the suspects in last year's murder of Revolutionary Proletarian Army leader Joemarie Pamuceno was killed in an ambush in Barangay Bagtic, Silay City, Negros Occidental on Friday. Norberto Biñas, among those charged with the death of Pamuceno, was on board a Multicab with three companions when ambushed by three unidentified men. Biñas had bullet wounds in different parts of the body, including one in the head, the Silay police said. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Ex-bank employee killed

COTABATO CITY—Suspected car thieves shot dead a former employee of a Metrobank branch here after the victim refused to let go of his newly acquired motorcycle on Feb. 13. Police said Waliasa Arsa, 32, who used to be Metrobank's clearing officer, was gunned down by one of the suspects at a dark portion of Gonzalo Javier Street in Barangay Rosary Heights 7. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Suspected robber slain

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The chief of police of Dasmariñas, Cavite shot dead a robber who tried to seize the service firearm of a policeman while he was being brought to prison inside the police station on Feb. 12. Police said Bernardo Bugal, a resident of Barangay Area 1, Dasmariñas, was about to be brought inside the police jail at 1 a.m. when he suddenly grabbed the 9 mm pistol of his guard. Dasmariñas police chief Chief Insp. Mario Reyes saw the incident and immediately shot the suspect. Bugal tried to shoot back but was again shot by Reyes. The suspect was immediately brought to the nearby De La Salle Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Search for 7 stopped

ILOILO CITY—The Coast Guard has called off search and rescue operations for seven persons on board a motor banca that disappeared almost two weeks ago between the islands of Semirara and Boracay. Capt. Arturo Olavario, Coast Guard commander in Western Visayas, said they were focusing their efforts on gathering information. The outrigger boat Nining left Sibolon Island in Caluya town, Antique Feb. 3 enroute to Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro. It was expected to arrive by noon the next day but did not reach its destination. *Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

Illegal fishers nabbed

TALITAY, Maguindanao—The local government on Feb. 16 started a crackdown on fishermen using illegal methods in the Liguasan Marsh and burned fishing implements in public. Mayor Kabile Sumagka said local authorities seized eight-volt wet cell batteries, copper wires and zinc sinkers used by illegal inland fishers in this part of the 420,000-hectare marsh. Sumagka said 45 more of such implements were surrendered by their owners and were also publicly burned.

BUTI NGA SA INYO!!

Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau

3 rebs slain in clash

DAVAO CITY—Three communist rebels were killed in a clash with government soldiers in Talaingod, Davao del Norte, the military reported Monday. Maj. Jose Cuerpo III, military spokesperson for Southern Mindanao, said soldiers from the 73rd Infantry Battalion were on patrol in a remote village of Talaingod when they chanced upon New People's Army (NPA) rebels. He said the military suffered no casualty but a civilian was wounded. Cuerpo said the bodies of the slain rebels were brought to the military headquarters in Camp Panacan here. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Maid's kin suspect foul play in Singapore death

CAUAYAN CITY—THE DREAM OF overseas Filipino worker Haidee de la Calzada was to build a decent house for her eight brothers and sisters and to help finance their schooling.

But that's gone now.

Haidee, 28, the third youngest among nine children of Raymundo and Susana de la Calzada, returned to Marabulig Dos here in a coffin on Feb. 11 after she reportedly committed suicide by jumping from the eighth floor of her employer's condominium in Singapore.

She was only on her fourth day of her two-year contract when she died. Her parents and relatives could not believe she committed suicide.

"It is impossible that her head is intact and she has no fractures, except for bruises and contusions (apparently inflicted by somebody)," her father Raymundo said. Her uncle, Francisco Ibujo, said there were "glaring inconsistencies" in the reports on her death from the Singaporean and Philippine embassies.

He asked the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the case. A few hours before her alleged suicide, Haidee sent text messages to her relatives in Cauayan City, reporting some "suspicious acts and advances" by her male employer, it was learned.

Some of the text messages, according to her relatives, included: "I found his actions strange. He tried to give me money but I refused."

She added: "Sorry, I panicked. My employer explained his side."

"I escaped. I didn't like to go back to my employer. He had evil motives against me."

Her sister, Lenny, said Haidee had reported that her employer "used psychological, mental, physical, and emotional methods of harassing her."

She said her sister's mobile phone went off after sending the text messages. A few hours later, a call from the Philippine Embassy said Haidee committed suicide. Manuela Peña, regional manager of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration in Cagayan Valley, said the victim's family would be given financial help. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Protesters want death for Danish cartoonist

MARAWI CITY—ANGRY MUSLIMS in Lanao del Sur demanded death for two Danish journalists who caused the publication of 12 Muhammad cartoons September last year that later spread to other countries in Europe and around the world.

Amid chants of "Allahu Akbar" by over 3,000 protesters, a local Muslim cleric read a local *fatwah* (edict) addressed to Flemming Rose, cultural editor, and Carsten Juste, editor in chief, of Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten.

After handing down the religious opinion, the styrofoam effigies of Rose and Juste were then beheaded with a Maranao kris, drawing even louder chants and uproar from the crowd of mostly youth who gathered in a three-hour indignation rally Thursday morning at Plaza Cabili here.

As the rally wound up toward noon, the protesters burned the Danish flag to symbolize their disgust over official silence of its government on the matter even as a cabinet minister expressed a personal view condemning the cartoons.

The rally was the second held in the city in a week in response to the global circulation of the Muhammad cartoons which Muslims found offensive to the Islamic faith.

In his *fatwah*, Alem Mohammad Mansawi-Mimbalawag, grand *imam* of the Masgid Allahoakbar Minbar Algoraba, said the depiction of Muhammad in caricatures was an "unrighteous act" that is "unpardonable."

He further said that "reconciliation and public official apology" cannot assuage the injury brought by the drawings to the Islamic faithful.

"The only solution is their (Rose and Juste's) death," Mimbalawag declared.

The religious leader also said a "declaration of Jihad" against the newspapers which published the cartoons "is justifiable."

Hadji Abdullah Dalidig, chair of the Muslim Multi-sectoral Movement for Peace and Development (MMMPD), said they "are willing to die for Prophet Muhammad."

"Believing Muslims love Muhammad more than anything in this world, more than ourselves and families, hence, we are ready to offer our lives to refute those who malign him," Dalidig said.

In a manifesto, the MMMPD said the "blasphemous cartoons" smack of "racist provocation and religious intolerance."

Amid the highly-charged atmosphere of the protest action, more moderate voices emerged.

Sheikh Saaduddin Alauya told the INQUIRER in an interview that the two Danish journalists must sincerely ask for forgiveness for having published the offensive materials and such apology "must be circulated as widely as the circulation of the cartoons."

From merely expressing regret for the furor caused by the cartoons, Carsten issued an apology late last month but only for offending people with the publication and not for the act of publishing. He maintained that on the basis of freedom of expression, he cannot apologize for causing the cartoons' publication.

Former Marawi city councilor Abed Dinang branded Carsten's justification as "malicious freedom of expression."

Saying "freedom of expression is not a license to attack a religion," Dalidig characterize the act as "irresponsible journalism."

He said the newspaper's posture on the matter is "equated with European arrogance and Islamophobia" and an indication of "growing Western hostility of intolerance and fear of Muslims and Islam in general."

The protesters also demanded official condemnation by the Danish government "on the blasphemy" committed by the two journalists and their newspaper.

In a huddle with reporters after his speech, Dalidig asked governments of all countries where the cartoons are published and circulated to express condemnation. *Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DENR exec admits Sierra Madre tree cutting

LUCENA CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources in Quezon has finally admitted that the unlawful cutting of trees is back in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges.

But Emrich Borja, DENR Quezon chief, said there was no logging in the area.

He made the admission after the Task Force Sierra Madre-Infanta (TFSM-I) presented video footage of freshly cut trees found on the mountain.

"In illegal logging, there should be unlawful cutting, transporting and selling of illegally cut logs. But what was shown in the video was plain illegal cutting of trees," Borja said.

Environmentalist lawyer Asis Perez, Tanggol Kalikasan executive director, immediately debunked Borja's explanation.

"Illegal cutting of trees is also illegal logging. They are the same. As a matter of fact, mere possession of illegally cut forest products is also considered as illegal logging," Perez said.

Catholic priest Fr. Pete Montallana, TFSM-I chair, also scoffed at Borja's excuse.

"There they go again, hiding behind double-meaning technicalities. They just want to hide and cover up the active on-going partnership between illegal loggers and unscrupulous DENR personnel," said Montallana, also the coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples' Apostolate in the Prelature of Infanta and director of the Tribal Center for Development.

But Borja absolved his office of any responsibility for the resurgence of illegal logging in Sierra Madre and instead pointed to Manila-based DENR officials as the ones to blame.

He said his office could not do anything once the DENR in Manila allowed logging.

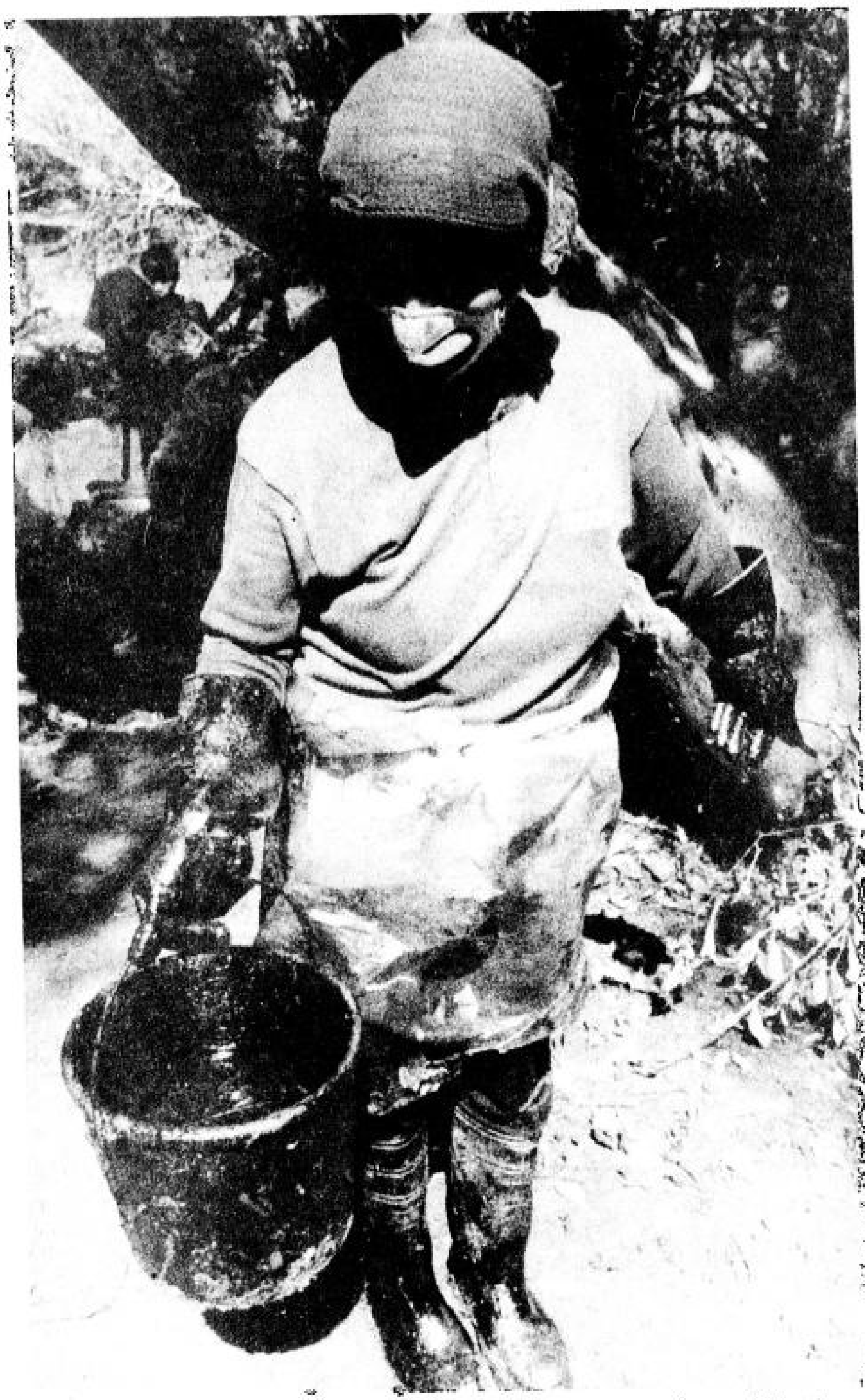
Featured in the footage were newly cut trees, mostly hardwood species. It took four persons to measure the diameter of each fallen tree.

The sound of chainsaws cutting trees could be heard in the footage taken last week.

Demosthenes Reynera, deputy coordinator of the Social Action Center of the Prelature of Infanta who was in the group that took the footage, said he found it revolting how the illegal loggers would indiscriminately cut trees and just leave these wasted if found with decayed parts.

Reynera said the freshly cut logs bore K and X marks, which he said belonged to a certain "Taktak" from Tanay, Rizal and Thelma Aumentado, a Dumagat tribal leader believed engaged in illegal logging in Sierra Madre.

"The illegal logger pays P3 per board foot to the hauler to bring down the sawn lumber in the pick-up point below the mountain. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



A FEMALE worker helps scoop up bunker fuel from the mangrove area that was hit by the Napocor oil spill.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Coast Guard tells probers Napocor fails to release funds for cleanup

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORACAY ISLAND—THE NATIONAL POWER Corp. has not released funds to the Coast Guard for the cleanup of areas contaminated by what has been described as the country's worst oil spill from a grounded Napocor power barge.

Deputy Commander Allen Torribio, chief of the Coast Guard's Marine Environmental Protection Command, said the failure of Napocor to release funds for the cleanup made the cleanup operations on Semirara Island more difficult.

Torribio told a public hearing of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources and the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Clean Water here on Saturday that the Napocor failed to provide funds to the Coast Guard for the cleanup operations, which started two months ago.

The Coast Guard has already spent P14 million from its operational funds but had not been reimbursed by the Napocor, said Torribio.

He said the Napocor should not wait for insurance firms to release payments because this would take several weeks or months and delay the cleanup.

There are several bills in the Senate and the House creating an oil spill liability fund.

Napocor president Cyril del Callar said in the hearing that the state-owned agency was "not skirting" its responsibility to shoulder the cost of the cleanup and the damages the spill caused.

He said the Napocor was still processing insurance claims at the Government Service Insurance System.

Del Callar said the Napocor released P3.5 million from its funds for operations related to the oil spill. It also released another P15 million through the Semirara Mining Company which it would refund when the insurance claims are released.

The Coast Guard earlier said the cost of the oil spill, the biggest in the country's history, would run to P90 million. But Torribio said in the hearing that the cost could go up.

Sen. Pia Cayetano, Senate committee chair on environment and natural resources, pointed out Napocor's failure to tap the Environmental Guarantee Fund (EGF) amounting to P5 million, which could have helped in the cleanup operations.

Under Presidential Decree 1586 or the Philippine Environmental Impact System Law, the EGF is a trust fund put up by proponents of environmentally-critical projects which could be immediately released for incidents that cause pollution like oil spills.

It is a requirement in applying for an Environmental Certificate Compliance (ECC) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Del Callar said they had not tapped the fund even as he admitted that they were still waiting for the release of the Napocor's insurance claims.

Cayetano said the mechanics for the immediate release of the stand-by fund should be made clearer and specific.

Del Callar also assured residents of Semirara that they would provide alternative livelihood programs to compensate for their loss of income.

PNP cites Alaminos for fight vs drugs

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) cited the local government unit of Alaminos City as the No. 1 antidrug council among other provinces in Region 1.

Alaminos City Mayor Hernani Braganza reaped praises from PNP chief Director General Arturo Lomibao for being able to wipe out the drug menace.

Lomibao handed the award to Braganza during the 15th PNP anniversary held at Camp Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo in San Fernando, La Union last week.

In a statement, Braganza said Lomibao assured him of support for additional personnel and vehicles in the city's local police stations.

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PIBD0509F543	6/17/2009	12.00%	8.10%	PIBD0510D589	4/7/2010	11.50%	8.15%	PIBD0711A354	1/22/2011	11.00%	8.25%
PIBD0409C [illegible]	7/14/2009	10.875%	8.10%	PIBD1010D188	4/27/2010	13.875%	8.15%	PIBD0711D360	4/15/2011	12.00%	8.30%
PIBD0509G037	7/16/2009	11.75%	8.10%	PIBD0710E348	5/6/2010	11.875%	8.15%	PIBD0711G376	7/22/2011	12.00%	8.35%
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PIBD0509J569	10/28/2009	12.375%	8.10%	PIBD1010I236	9/1/2010	14.625%	8.20%	PIBD0712K413	11/17/2012	10.50%	8.50%
PIBD1009K137	11/26/2009	15.00%	8.15%	PIBD0510I643	9/8/2010	10.625%	8.20%	PIBD0713A421	1/5/2013	9.00%	8.55%
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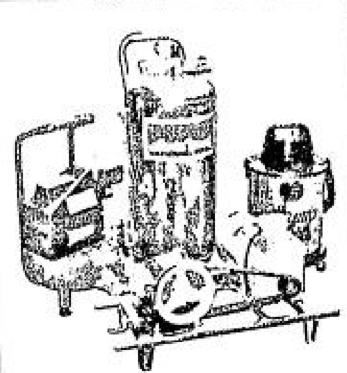

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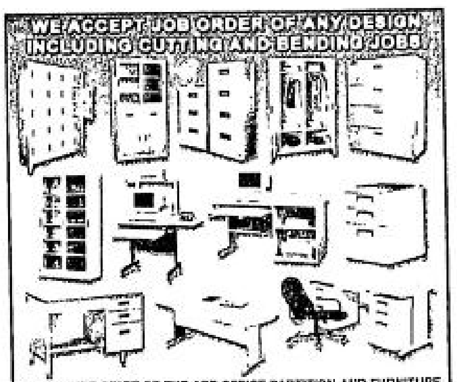

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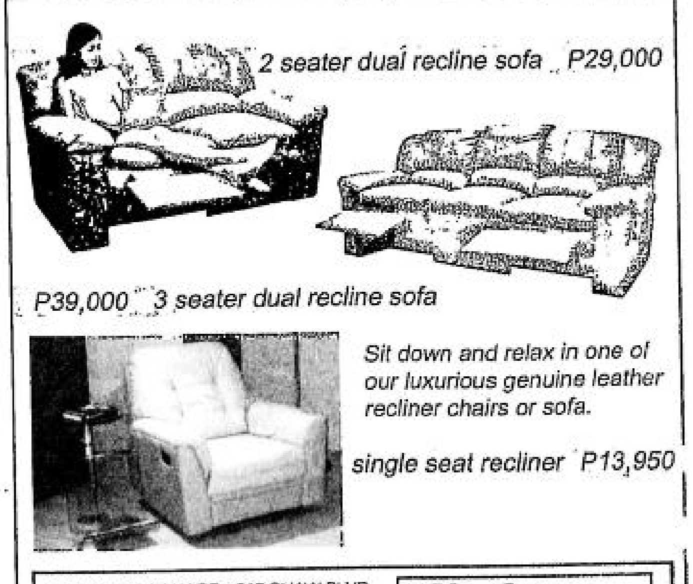

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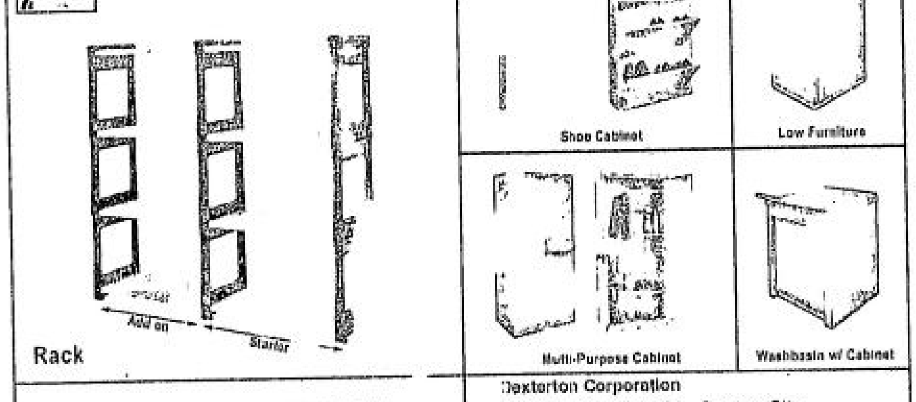

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Too much water

EDITORIAL

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT LA NIÑA IS BRINGING more rains to the country, resulting in more water for drinking and household purposes as well as for irrigation and agriculture. The bad news, according to Pagasa chief Graciano Yumul, is that La Niña is producing "too much water in the wrong place at the wrong time." It has been inducing more typhoons, floods and more frequent heavy rains since November last year.

La Niña (Spanish for "The Little Girl") is meteorologically the flip side of the more well-known El Niño. The term refers to the extensive cooling of the central and eastern Pacific. This packs the atmosphere with more energy and increases the frequency of heavy rain and thunderstorms. Places like north Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and some parts of the Philippines will have more cloud and more rain. Typically, La Niña lasts from three to six months, but it could extend to 12 months. Its effects could be aggravated by global warming which has raised sea surface temperature, packing marine air with extra loads of moisture.

From January to Feb. 12, some parts of the Philippines received 300 times more than the average rainfall, triggering flash floods and mudslides in the Visayas and Mindanao. So far, its most fatal and destructive effect has been felt in Southern Leyte, where as many as 1,800 people may have been killed and thousands of others have been left homeless.

The weather bureau said the eastern seaboard of the country would be hardest hit by La Niña. This includes Cagayan Valley, Isabela, Aurora, the Bicol provinces, Southern Leyte, Leyte, Samar, Agusan del Sur and Norte, and Davao Oriental. These provinces particularly will have to prepare for stronger and more destructive typhoons because of La Niña.

During the La Niña episode in 1998-1999, typhoon "Norming" struck the Visayas, killing 17 people, leaving 24 missing and destroying more than P240 million worth of crops and property. In February 1999, flash floods in Agusan del Sur and the Caraga region killed 39 people and left more than 30,000 others homeless.

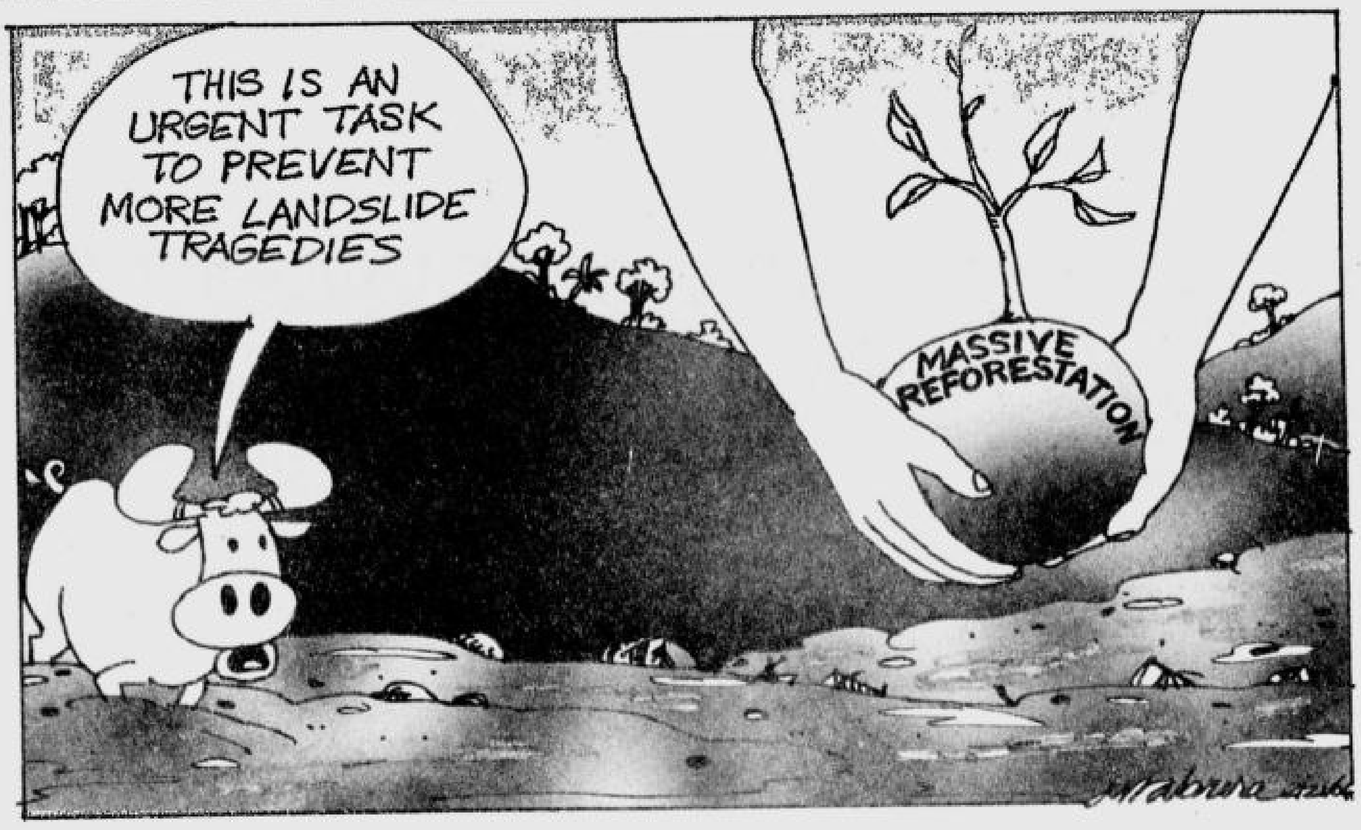
The nation has to prepare for both the beneficial and destructive effects of La Niña. The government would do well to rush the construction of water impoundment sites where the heavy rains could be collected and stored for the dry months. Mini irrigation systems will have to be built so that they could use the abundant water for agriculture. Farmers, particularly in eastern Luzon, have to be persuaded to switch to crops suitable for the high rainfall expected in the coming months.

It's too late to start a reforestation program in provinces like Southern Leyte where many mountains and hills have been denuded by illegal loggers, *kaingin* makers as well as legitimate farmers who cut down trees so that they could plant coconut trees. But something has to be done to avoid a repetition of the mudslide in Southern Leyte that has taken a horrendous toll in human lives and property damage. One inexpensive solution is the large-scale use of the soil erosion control net or coconet invented by Filipino engineer Justino Arboleda. The invention recently won the first prize in the First World Challenge contest sponsored by BBC World television in London. We have the material for it in abundance, and it can be produced quickly in bulk.

Only recently, the Office of Civil Defense said that the government was preparing a nationwide flood mitigation plan that could be completed in six months. Priority should be given to the provinces on the eastern seaboard that could be hit hardest by the typhoons and heavy rainfall that is brought about by La Niña.

In the meantime, an efficient alarm system has to be devised so that people in areas where the possibility of mudslides occurring is very high can be evacuated as quickly as possible at the first sign of impending trouble. Better yet, these people should be relocated to other, safer places while something is being done to shore up the mountains and hills that are prone to landslides and mudslides.

The government and the people cannot remain complacent and reactive all the time, and act only after weather disturbances like typhoons, protracted heavy rainfall and massive flooding have occurred. Now that La Niña is upon us, they have to take urgent measures to avoid the loss of human lives and costly damage to crops, public infrastructure and private property.


THIS IS AN URGENT TASK TO PREVENT MORE LANDSLIDE TRAGEDIES
MASSIVE REFORESTATION

Grand memory

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"WE HAVE A GRAND MEMORY FOR FORGETting," the best president the United States never had once said. Adlai Stevenson's gripe pinpoints the amnesia smudging over People Power on the 20th anniversary of its smashing, without bloodshed, the 14-year Marcos dictatorship.

In ironic counterpoint, this model of peaceful protest is being replayed in country after country. Czechoslovakia's "Velvet Revolution" ended communist rule; Ecuador's "noise barrage" sent its president packing; Lebanon's "Cedar Revolution" forced Syrian troops out.

There's no shortage of other ironies. Joseph Estrada hunkered down in San Juan, waiting for Marcos storm troopers to plaster the rebels. The revolution left communists clueless in their safe houses. Ousted by People Power 2, Estrada tried calling for vast crowds to spring him from the clink. No one came. Reds saw their rallies to oust the Arroyo regime, scrap the Constitution and install their politburo fizzle.

Like Shakespeare's Glendower, they assumed people power could be whistled up on call. "I too can call," Hotspur said. "Or so can any man. But will they come when you do call for them?"

In response to Jaime Cardinal Sin's appeal, people massed and saved Juan Ponce Enrile from Marcos' fury for plotting to take over. But in the last elections, Enrile "apologized" to Ilocano voters for People Power. Did he forget?

Ferdinand Marcos Jr. scoffs at Edsa as "the five-percent revolution." This kleptocracy's beneficiary can speak freely, due to liberties People Power restored. Does it bother him?

But some, who should know better, reduce Edsa to "will-she-or-wont-she" chatter. Will the President honor this uprising? Or will she dodge it with PR pap?

Absent from Edsa I, she was Edsa II's beneficiary—undeserving, critics snort, since she waffled before waltzing in with victors after the brawl. She's edgy over being a people power target.

"I don't have the energy to overthrow another president," A. Lin Neumann quotes a Filipino friend in Hong Kong Standard's magazine feature on Edsa. "The place seems weary of itself. And its best minds and strongest backs look abroad for a future."

Neumann covered the Philippines for a decade. He was on the China Airlines flight that ended with former Sen. Benigo Aqunio's tarmac murder. Two hours after the Marcoses and cronies scrambled aboard escape helicopters, he stood in the jumbled presidential bedrooms.

"I can still recall the sweet odor rising from flagons of Chanel No. 5 and Joy perfume left behind in the rush to pack jewels and other valuables… Emerging from the palace, it was impossible not to be moved by people kneeling, praying the rosary… A peaceful four-day revolt toppled a dictatorship that once seemed impregnable."

"Where has that hope gone?" Neumann asks. "It is hard to recall … because the Philippines is such a mess." It's kept afloat "by remittances from Filipinos who labor as maids in Hong Kong, cooks in Saudi Arabia and doctors or nurses in the US. The President is bogged down in scandal. Insurgency festers. Assassins are rarely punished. Yet, People Power was an immensely hopeful event with global reverberations."

In the tense run-up to the revolt, Jose "Jolly" Benitez, a close protégé of Imelda Marcos, was sitting late at night in the Manila Hotel's ornate lobby bar, Neumann writes. "What happened? How did you guys lose control?" he asked him.

"A very powerful man in those days, Benitez was visibly drunk and slurred his words. 'Nuns. How could we know those f***ing nuns were going to sit on the ballot boxes?' he said before launching into a crude string of epithets. He took another gulp of his scotch and added: there was no way out for Marcos. 'We don't know what to do,' he said before lurching off into the night."

"The country never dug itself out from the abyss that began under Marcos," Neumann continues. Avaricious moneyed elites returned with a vengeance. Giddy with its interventions, the military is restive in the barracks. And President Arroyo is mired,seeking safety nets like constitutional blue-penciling, to survive, much less govern.

People Power restored civil liberties and gave rise to a vibrant press, Neumann says. But it didn't usher in sustained structural reform. Lip service prevails. "On what should be a grand anniversary, it is difficult to find much to rejoice in."

But hope lies elsewhere. People today no longer ask if People Power failed. Rather, the question is: Where did we, as ordinary citizens, shortchange Edsa?

There's a clearer perception now that hope lies not in "the man on a white charger." Can you imagine Erap, Joma, Fidel or Ping as "liberator"?

Hope of living up to People Power's vision is found in ordinary people doing the right things, despite the odds. "How could we know those f***ing nuns were going to sit on the ballot boxes," as Benitez put it.

People Power is not a single cataclysmic event. It is a drawn-out process of people governing themselves, thereby leading the "leaders" of today. And "the struggle of man against power," as Czech novelist Milan Kundera wrote, "is [also] the struggle against forgetting."

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Hearts and mind

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IGNACIO BUNYE HAD AN INTERESTING reply to Fidel Ramos' complaint. Ramos had earlier fumed about government preparations for the 20th anniversary of Edsa not according it the proper fanfare it deserved. Edsa, he said, was much admired around the world. "Why is it that here in our own beloved Philippines, where it all started, we should be trying to downgrade it, diminish it and marginalize it?"

Bunye replied that there was nothing wrong with the low-key plans for the 20th anniversary. "The real meaning of Edsa resides in the national memory and in the hearts and minds of every Filipino and not in pomp and ceremony or rhetoric." That is all very well, except for one thing: Only recently we celebrated a victory with much pomp, ceremony and rhetoric. That was Manny Pacquiao's victory over Erik Morales in Las Vegas last month. Such was the importance given to the event the First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and the gentleman-farmer Chavit Singson leaped to the stage to bathe in Pacquiao's glory, a thing that sparked an epidemic of booing in local movie houses where the fight was shown. Such was the earthshaking significance of the event a motorcade that wound through the streets of Manila was thrown for Pacquiao when he came home. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza was at his side—he would be there from Las Vegas to the plane to Naia to Manila City Hall to Malacañang and all the way to Quezon City, Sonny Belmonte country. Talk of Brokeback Mountain!

Near my son's school in Mandaluyong, I see a big sign that says, "Bayani ka Manny!" I don't know how many other places in Metro Manila sport similar proclamations.

I figure Pacquiao deserves the accolades. But I have not seen one sign this coming 20th anniversary of Edsa that says, "Bayani ka Cory," or more to the point, "Bayani ka, Juan de la Cruz." Lest we forget, though we always do, the thing is called People Power and not Cory Power, or Sin Power, or Ramos Power, or, heaven forbid, Enrile Power. But I did not hear Bunye or his boss, GMA—who swiftly incorporated boxing phrases in her rhetoric ("We will TKO poverty")—say, "Forget the parade, the true meaning of Pacquaio's feat resides in the hearts and minds of every Filipino." What are they trying to tell us, that a victory by a Filipino boxer over his tormentor is infinitely more important than the liberation by Juan de la Cruz of himself from a tyrant?

The real reason, of course, for GMA's reluctance to ask the country to recall one of its greatest achievements, its gift to the world (*"handog ng Pilipino sa mundo"*), as the Apo sang—and she keeps accusing her critics of wanting to dwell only on the negative!—is that she fears being at the other side of it. She is the last person to want to draw attention to the need to oust a tyrant as a moral and practical imperative.

But Bunye is right about one thing: The real meaning of Edsa lies in the heart and mind and not in the pomp and ceremony. None of this means that the 20th anniversary of Edsa should not be celebrated with pomp and ceremony—few things in this country have pricked the imagination of the world and stands as an inexhaustible source of national pride. All of it means that Edsa means nothing if it is merely observed in ritual and not in essence, in word and not in deed, in letter and not in spirit.

What does it mean when you say that the significance of an event lies in the heart and mind? It means that you keep its spirit alive in the fires of memory and practice. It means that you make the past live in the present, it means you make the past resonate in the present, it means that you make the heroism of yesterday live on in what you do today.

That is the part where Ramos has little business complaining about the lack of fanfare lavished upon Edsa. Edsa is more than a glorious history, it is a raging memory. Edsa is more than a lost artifact, it is a continuing presence. Edsa is not there to serve as a PR vehicle for Ramos, notwithstanding that he keeps trying to lay claim to it like a panhandler lays claim to a gold site. His claim to Edsa disappeared the day he went to GMA's side last July to try to prop up a usurper who stole the vote.

What is Edsa? Edsa is about ending a regime of tyranny and building one of enlightenment. What is Edsa? Edsa is about ending a regime of rottenness and corruption and building one of goodness and decency. What is Edsa? Edsa is about ending a regime of lying, cheating and stealing and breathing in the air of honesty, integrity and service to the people.

If that is Edsa, then Ramos never really understood it. None of this is to say we may not recall him at all in the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of Edsa. All of it is to say that we may not make him its living symbol. Indeed, all of it is to say we may not associate in its deepest sense so sublime a concept with so crass an operator, so life-affirming an idea with so life-denying a power-broker.

The real meaning of Edsa does lie in the heart and mind. They are the force that keeps magnificence alive. They are the force that makes the past present, the spirit flesh, the word deed. Bunye and his boss may be assured that the rest of us at least intend to keep the spirit of Edsa alive in our hearts and minds even as we move to celebrate its 20th anniversary with all the color and resplendence we can muster. Who knows? Maybe in celebrating it the furious way we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Philippine Independence in 1998, when flags fluttered and patriotic fervor soared, we might rekindle much of the passion and heroism we've lost over the years.

Indeed, who knows? Maybe by flocking to the Edsa Shrine this Saturday to mark the 20th anniversary of the ouster of a tyrant, we might end up ousting another.

Be there.

Senate should pass 'Billion Trees Act' fast

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

OUR PROFOUND CONDOLENCES TO THE victims of the deadly mudslides in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, and the families still waiting for news on the fate of their relatives who remain buried beneath the mud. The terrible disaster has touched the whole world, and help in various forms has been pouring in from many countries. The government's response has been fast and quick, with President Macapagal-Arroyo and Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, chair of the National Disaster Control Council, staying on top of the aid and relief operations. Various citizens' groups have also been mobilizing help.

* * *

To lay church leader and TV personality Baby Nebrida, the best help is prayer for all the victims of recent natural and man-made disasters. Baby has appealed to CBCP president Archbishop Angel Lagdameo to set up a National Day of Prayer that will serve as balm to the spiritual wounds of the victims and heal various conflicts on the eve of the 20th anniversary of Edsa I. Baby has appealed to the bishops to open churches for vigils before the Blessed Sacrament through the next few days until the Edsa anniversary. Truly, nothing brings together our people as adversity does.

* * *

But the mudslides have hit not only Southern Leyte but also various parts of Mindanao and the Visayas as well as Luzon's eastern seaboard. And from what the experts tell us, mudslides will present a constant danger to our countrymen owing to the expected La Niña phenomenon and the poor state of many mountains around the country that are now unable to hold the soil after being logged heavily.

Environmentalists now cite as one crucial factor the failure of Congress to pass until now the "One Billion Trees Act." Agusan del Norte Rep. Leovigildo Banaag, chair of the House committee on natural resources, recently pointed out that this bill, which seeks to reforest our denuded mountains on a massive scale as well as jumpstart the rural economies by providing a million jobs, was filed in the 12th Congress and again in the current one. But it is one of the bills that the Senate, in its preoccupation with investigations, has sat on for years. To be filed and re-filed has been the fate of this crucial bill in the House. It's time the Senate acted on it to prevent the disasters we are now witnessing. The fate of this bill is the best argument for a unicameral legislature. Having two chambers that are always in gridlock results in very slow legislation.

* * *

Speaking of Charter change, attacks on Speaker Jose de Venecia by senators have become personal lately, which may be indication that the latter may be panicking over the House-initiated campaign supported by local government officials and NGOs to change the Constitution. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel was quoted as saying recently that JDV has not done anything significant, but JDV should be able to answer that one. More interesting, and something I happen to know about, was former Sen. Francisco Tatad's accusation that JDV was being dishonest in granting the Congressional Medal of Achievement to local and foreign leaders (one was given to the PNOC during my husband's presidency, when it won the Global Energy Award in 2003) because that award was never approved by the Senate. Moreover, Tatad alleged that the award was being bestowed on the basis of Resolution 453, but the latter deals with another topic altogether (a ban on overseas employment).

In fairness to JDV and the House, however, I have witnessed a number of those awarding ceremonies and the citations always makes it clear the honor is being conferred by the House alone. I also noted the House secretary general's explanation that Resolution 453, which established the award, was approved in the 12th Congress, whereas the resolution with the same number Tatad referred to was passed in the 13th Congress. Those are two different resolutions altogether. In Tatad's hurry to blast the House, he stumbled.

* * *

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz was quoted as saying that the government has begun mapping out the towns that are prone to floods and landslides, and once this is finished, he'll ask local government officials and the media to help disseminate the information to the citizens. But I'm afraid dissemination is not enough. What government ought to do is relocate towns that are at high risk and forcibly keep the people out of the danger zones. Beyond providing blankets, warm clothes, food rations and makeshift shelters, the financial aid now pouring in from both local and foreign sources should be used to build new communities away from the danger areas. This would make the financial aid from our generous donors more meaningful. Otherwise, this disaster will visit the country with greater regularity.

* * *

Now for some good news. Fil-American film producer Pia Clemente, an Oscar nominee this year, has signed up designer Rajo Laurel of the talented Laurel clan and Los Angeles-based Fil-Am designer David Tupaz to coordinate on making the two gowns she'll wear to the Oscars. These two designers join our own Monique Lhuillier of the Cebu clan in being designer to the stars. Monique, the daughter of the still-lovely Amparito Llamas Lhuillier and her husband Michel, brother of Ambassador to Rome Philippe Lhuillier, has been dressing up stars like Sharon Stone and academy-award winners and has become very famous. Over dinner in Rome last September, Ambassador Lhuillier's pretty wife, Edna, told us how once when she was shopping in LA, she presented her credit card and the sales lady recognized the name and started asking if she was related to Monique. The other sales ladies started to crowd around her, wanting to know more about Monique. Edna had the same experience in Milan, where the sales girls became curious when they learned that she is a Lhuillier.

A personal connection

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES CLOSE TO HOME, the "victims" transform from faceless figures you vaguely feel sorry for but don't really know, to individuals, with life stories and thwarted personal destinies.

I've written earlier about the elementary school in Barangay Guinsaugon in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, which was buried in last week's mudslide. According to a text message forwarded to me, the school was filled not just with the students and teachers but also with 80 women who were meeting to mark the anniversary of their organization.

Now, from a slew of e-mail messages that accumulated over the weekend, I find out that the 80 women were all members of the local chapter of Abanse! Pinay. Laureen Daclan Dumaguing, Abanse! Pinay head of the Southern Leyte chapter, said the women were in the school observing the anniversary of their chapter's founding.

In an anguished message, Pat Sarenas, AIP's former sectoral representative, writes that she is "so overwhelmed with grief" as she had met many of the women of Guinsaugon, having visited St. Bernard in 2001. Together with Alice Morada, at that time one of our nominees for party-list representative, Laureen and Pauline Nayra, our Leyte chapter head, Pat went to St. Bernard for the inauguration of the Women's Center, which had been constructed with funds accessed through Abanse! Pinay.

Some months later, I also went around Southern Leyte with Laureen for the blessing of more women's centers, though I can't remember if St. Bernard was one of the many towns we visited. But the personal connection, however tenuous, is enough to lend urgency and poignancy to the appeals being made by Laureen, Pauline and other Leyte-based friends who are feverishly raising funds and soliciting relief goods for the survivors.

* * *

FROM PAULINE comes an urgent appeal for blankets. "Blankets are needed in the rescue and relief effort; they can be used to carry the weak and the children and their belongings to safety. They are also used (by evacuees) for sleeping in the absence of mats and to cover and protect themselves," says Pauline.

You may send your new or clean used blankets, as well as other donations, to Runggiyan Social Development Foundation Inc., Don V. dela Cruz Ave., Calanipawan, Tacloban City, Tel. No. 052-5235903.

Laureen, for her part, texted that apart from food and clothing, what the survivors need most right now are "light materials for construction," apparently for temporary shelter as all the houses in the barangay have been leveled. All donations will be coursed through St. Bernard Mayor Maria Lim, a supporter of Abanse! Pinay.

Those wishing to send cash, Laureen says, can directly deposit their donations to her account at the Allied Bank branch in Baybay, Leyte. Her account number is 0840740365, and I'm sure she'll acknowledge all donations with the proper receipts.

Friends with the Abanse! Pinay chapter in Cebu have also been mobilizing among their networks for aid to the landslide survivors. Tess Fernandez of Lihok Pilipina in Cebu writes that three Lihok staff members would be traveling to St. Bernard to distribute the goods they were able to collect.

The latest word they've gathered is that three other barangays in St. Bernard have been evacuated. Tess echoes the call for blankets and mats, as well as for toothbrushes, soap, toothpaste and sanitary napkins for the women survivors.

* * *

"THEY buried a generation today," is how the lead in a story about the funeral of schoolchildren who died in a school fire goes. A classic of newswriting, oft cited in journalism school, the sentence sums up the magnitude of loss one feels when children die in large numbers in one fell swoop.

For the citizens of Guinsaugon, burying the next generation—the almost 200 students attending classes in the elementary school when it was buried beneath a mountain of mud—will take some time, as rescuers report that they have yet to reach any part of the school, dashing hopes of rescuing any possible survivors.

But it turns out that more than just the dreams and possibilities of a generation lie buried beneath the earth in Guinsaugon. A story on the barangay elementary school says the young people there were considered among the most gifted in St. Bernard, excelling in "math competitions and academic exams."

The story Volt Contreras tells is of dedicated teachers and bright students who, despite their poverty and the remote location of their barangay, managed to best their peers among the other elementary schools in St. Bernard and the province as a whole. Indeed, a local education official said the Guinsaugon students might have been reviewing for this year's division test, which covered such basic subjects as English, Math, Science and Makabayan (a combination of history and civics) a test they routinely excelled in.

* * *

SO TO the folk of Guinsaugon and St. Bernard—and of the rest of the country—the grief and shock over the disaster is compounded by a sense of great loss, not just of possibly over a thousand residents of the barangay, but of a generation of young people who held out so much promise and potential.

I think, too, of their mothers, many of whom were surely among the 80 supporters of Abanse! Pinay meeting in the school that morning and celebrating their solidarity and sisterhood.

I had felt sickened to the stomach when I first heard news of the mudslide, and was horrified when I beheld the initial news footage out of Guinsaugon. That initial shock has since worn off, replaced by grief for everyone—but especially the women and children—who didn't know what hit them that bright Friday morning.

Closure

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE SILENCE WAS PALPABLE AT PLAZUELA DE Sta. Isabel last Saturday in Intramuros when Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki, on the occasion of the 61st anniversary of the Liberation of Manila, expressed his apologies and "deep sense of remorse over the tragic fate of Manila." He cited Rear Admiral Iwabuchi's decision to override General Yamashita's order to evacuate Manila, resulting in the deaths of 100,000 civilians and the annihilation of the ever loyal city.

There was hardly a dry eye in the audience when Ambassador Juan Rocha, who lost his mother in that holocaust, remarked that it had been difficult to forgive when there was no contrition. Yamazaki's sincere regrets may go a long way in healing those festering wounds.

Thankfully, Filipino-Japanese Friendship month has been moved to July. This year is also the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations with Japan. In this connection, I received a book, entitled "Japanese Pioneers in the Northern Philippine Highlands," published in 2004 in celebration and commemoration of the Japanese migrant laborers of Northern Luzon who worked on the construction of Kennon Road together with Filipinos, Chinese and Americans at the turn of the century. The next time you pass through Kennon, remember that over 4,000 men from 46 nations worked on the road. It was because of the highway they built that Baguio developed into the country's favorite vacation spot. Between 500 and 600 Japanese gave up their lives for that road, dying from malaria, beriberi, dysentery and work accidents. In the 1903 cholera outbreak alone, 300 Japanese were said to have been buried in Balangabang (Twin Peaks).

The book presents a recollection of descendants whose stories about the lives and work of their parents and grandparents are written about for the first time. For several decades, these stories remained buried due to the long-lasting anti-Japanese feelings. Stories were suppressed, some descendants changed their names and many Filipino-Japanese families broke up with the father's return to Japan. Most of us, therefore, had no idea of the role these Japanese pioneers played in the development of Baguio and nearby provinces or their participation in the construction of Kennon and Naguilian, which was done mostly by hand.

The book presents oral histories and photographs you haven't seen before (which shouldn't surprise us since most of the documents of the American occupation of this country is in the United States). Rare images were provided by former Baguio residents who now live in Japan and archival records in the US. Among these are photographs taken by Shonosuke Furuya, a professional photographer who worked at Pine Studio in Baguio in the mid-1920s until he set up his own business, the Golden Light Studio in Balatoc Mines, and sent back photographs to his family in Japan where they miraculously survived the war. Incredibly, there were actually four Japanese studios on Session Road in those days before the war. So what other photographs exist?

Most history books published (if you've read enough of them) are a rehash of what you already know. Many times, the footnotes are more interesting than the text. But this particular book is a revelation. All these years, I thought Baguio meant typhoon or storm in the vernacular. Wouldn't you know its etymology is "*bagiw*," an aquatic fern that grows on the swampy bottom of the Guisad Valley? That's just one of the things you'll find out.

There were over a thousand Japanese who worked on Kennon Road and, when it was finished, many opted to stay behind. Some opened grocery stores, others operated sawmills and still others constructed many of the Western style office buildings and residences in Baguio. There were those who went into vegetable farming (before the war, 70 percent of the farms were Japanese owned), formed the Japanese Association, established a school and even engaged in the trucking business.

Many of these Japanese married local women, mostly Ibaloys, Kankanays and Bontoc natives. Others came from Pangasinan, Ilocos and the Tagalog regions who had migrated to the Cordilleras or who came selling various commodities to the construction workers on Kennon. There was Felisa Esperanza, a vendor of *tapuy* from Asin, who married Eijiro Shimotsu whom she met on the construction site of the railroad tunnel in Tuba, Benguet, and Catalina Duno from Bontoc who met Hyojiro Uda while selling fruits and vegetables to his bridge construction crew along the Chico River.

Regretfully, the war destroyed many lives, including the Japanese community in Baguio. Those who had sons in the Philippine-American army were tortured by the Japanese police.

After the Liberation, Japanese families were labeled "enemy aliens" and sent to detention camps. Others who retreated with the Japanese troops (a third died of illness and starvation) became prisoners of war. Upon their release, even their Philippine-born wives and children were tried for collaboration. They were cleared in 1948. But the Japanese men were repatriated to Japan, thus breaking up their families.

The author of the book, Cecile Afable, is the daughter of Teruji Okubo, a carpenter from Hiroshima, and Josefa Cariño, an Ibaloy.

It was in 1972 that Sr. Theresia Unno, a member of the Franciscan Order, begun to gather data about the descendants of these early Japanese pioneers. This led to the formation of the Filipino-Japanese Foundation of Northern Luzon Inc. which published the book.

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Lonely together

YOUNG BLOOD

Ruth Gadia

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I KNEW SHE WOULD EVENTUALLY POP THE QUESTION after watching Nova Villa ask John Lloyd Cruz the same question countless times in her favorite telenovela. And she finally did, one afternoon when I got home from school.

"*May boyfriend ka na ba?*" my grandmother asked, her voice lilting, her expression uncannily like Nova Villa's.

"*Wala pa ho,*" I said. "*Hindi ko nga po ma-imagine ..*"

"*Kung paano umibig at ibigin?*" Lola finished.

Ugh. That wasn't what I meant to say at all. I like to think I at least have some idea of love, however flawed or vague. Mills and Boon introduced me to romance back when I was in fifth grade. Now at 20, I've been to enough drinking sessions to witness several declarations of love.

"I was about to say I can't even imagine how my parents got married when they were just about my age," told my Lola. Real, enduring commitment, that's what I can't imagine. I, whose great commitment is to follow the antics of the animated fat, pink starfish, Patrick.

Lola considered me thoughtfully, probably thinking of my afternoon cartoon viewing. "Innocent *ka pa*," she decided. She said it as if love were vulgar. Judging from historical romances and drunken revelations, I have to admit that love can get nasty.

Lola folded her hands over her belly and stared into the distance. I thought that it would come then: the stories she usually told after the marble table had been wiped and she had changed into a fresh duster and had her feet propped on a chair, the stories about the great loves of her life.

There was brown-haired Finley, whom her family spurned because his mother was a washerwoman, when in truth they were running a successful laundry shop. There was broad-shouldered Juanito, her best friend and constant companion, with whom she shared afternoons and sweet corn cobs. There was the brilliant uncle who, long before "The Da Vinci Code," had told her about Mary Magdalene's marriage to Christ. And then there was Lolo Doming, whom she describes as the least remarkable among her loves ("ugly" was the word she would use when she was annoyed), but the most loving and persistent of them all.

The stories did not come this afternoon. And looking at her, I remembered another time, some months after Lolo died. Her hands were also folded just so, although she was sobbing and rocking herself softly back and forth. "My husband has gone," she lamented. " My brother and sisters have gone. All my dearest friends have died. Sometimes, I feel so alone."

So that's how it goes. Nearing the end of your life, you are left with yourself. Strange, but at 20 and 80 we feel similarly lonely.

I've lost friends, siblings and younger cousins to their lovers. They had been caught up in bliss and swept away to worlds my innocent mind couldn't possibly imagine. Unreachable even by text, giddily distant even across the dinner table.

Sometimes, I'd feel a loss for loves I never actually had, not knowing Lola, whom I care for and live with, could be silently grieving for the loves she had lost.

Lola was still quietly staring at that something, something that could be decades in the past. Her lined face was smiling. The afternoon was waning.

We make quite a pair, I realized. And for now, we can continue being lonely together.

Ruth Gadia, 20, is a 4th year Fine Arts student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

No tears for grandma

Beverly Lopez

I DID NOT CRY FOR MY GRANDMOTHER. AND WHY should I? She was never close to me, to begin with. I didn't have fond memories of her. She was never part of my life.

Near her deathbed, I stood watching in silence as others wept. People leaned on me for support. I just held them and patted their heads awkwardly. I probably said something comforting, but I cannot remember what. They got my shoulders wet. And I was holding them up, unfeeling.

On her funeral, it was worse. People were coming in and out, but I didn't know anyone. I hardly knew anyone. I saw some family members for the first time. The atmosphere was tense, and I didn't know why.

The only people whose eyes were not red with tears were kids aged 15 and below. And me of course. They were oblivious, and they had an excuse. I did not.

Eulogies were delivered but nothing tugged at my heartstrings. I did not know my grandmother that way. My memories of her were so bad that I'd rather forget them. Who'd want to be remembered that way?

She never made me smile, much less laugh. Well, I laughed, but I laughed at her, not with her. She acted so childish during the last few years of her life.

We, my brother and I, almost died every time she came to our house. The Lopez household became stiff and gloomy when the Wicked Witch of the West arrived. Every year, she would come, and at the most unfortunate times, I must say: the Christmas season and New Year's Day. We didn't feel Christmasy at all. It felt more like Good Friday.

I did not cry during her burial. Hands were held. Music was played. Hugs were shared. Outbursts were inevitable. Of sadness, of tension, of relief.

I stood alone under the fire tree. It blazed crimson under the hot midday sun. I stood up. And then I cried.

I cried not for losing her. I didn't think I lost anything. I cried because I didn't feel her, not even once. Not even when her husband was alive.

Papa was different. He made me laugh. He played for me and he played with me. We were happy together. But from my grandmother, I got nothing.

I cried because I envied other people. I cried because they felt their grandmother's presence when I didn't. I cried because they cried when their grandmother died while I didn't. I cried for a completely different reason.

Regrets come in the end, they say. I knew mine did, but I didn't understand how it got to that point. Maybe I didn't reach out enough, or maybe I didn't reach out at all. Maybe we were just plain different and we couldn't see eye-to-eye. Maybe it just wasn't meant to be.

Maybe. Maybe. Maybe.

I wiped away my tears. I sat in the shade of the fire tree and comforted myself. My family would never understand. All of them had connected with my grandmother at some point in their lives. I didn't.

I didn't cry for my grandmother. And maybe I never will.

Beverly Lopez, 19, is a 2nd Year BA Journalism student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Proposed Charter undermines youth's role in nation-building

"THE YOUTH IS THE HOPE OF THE motherland," Jose Rizal said. But this would no longer be true should our pro-amendment advocates, and the opportunists behind them, succeed in changing our present Constitution.

One particular concern, among other equally important things that have been said about the proposed constitutional amendments and revision, should make the blood of every young Filipino and of the unborn generation boil. Section 13 of Article II (Declaration of Principles and State Policies) of the present Constitution which recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building, has been deleted in the proposed Charter.

The provision could not have been removed without a special reason. The last sentence of the state policy mentions the duty of the State to teach the youth patriotism and nationalism and to promote their involvement in public and civic affairs. This corresponds with Article XIV, Section 3 (2) on Education, which states: "They (education institutions) shall inculcate patriotism and nationalism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline, encourage critical and creative thinking, broaden scientific and technological knowledge, and promote vocational efficiency." This too is not in the proposed Charter.

Thus, the proposed Charter virtually discounts the important role the youth played in the nation's history—from the young Katipuneros who fought the Spaniards to the young guerillas who fought US and Japanese occupations, to the youth who fought the Marcos regime and marched in the two Edsa uprisings.

The proposed Charter obviously would prefer the present and coming generations of Filipinos not to get involved in the affairs of the country. It would rather discourage critical thinking and kill civic spirit among the young and breed instead a culture of apathy, individualism and selfishness among them.

And while the proposed Charter has included human rights education as part of the curricula, this will only serve as an indoctrination course to promote a twisted concept of civil liberties and constitutional rights.

Charter change proponents want to create a new generation of docile young Filipinos who will not dare challenge the existing order. Obviously, the Arroyo ruling clique recognizes the potential threat of an active and critical youth population on corrupt regimes.

It is the responsibility of every patriotic and freedom-loving young Filipino to oppose the proposed Chacha. Our nation's future depends on us.

—CARL MARC RAMOTA,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

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No moral ascendancy to criticize bishops

BELINDA OLIVARES-CUNANAN REFERRED to the position of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines on mining as a "stupidity." (PDI, 1/31/06) The CBCP, influenced by "leftist elements," according to Cunanan, advocates the repeal of the 1995 Mining Law and the suspension of mining permits.

We are not aware of Cunanan's moral ascendancy or qualification for her to label the stand of so moral a group as the CBCP as she did. But we do know that her background and inclination are that of an ultra-rightist. Her column generally supports the cause of prominent *trapos*; she normally expresses the views of conservative groups.

On the same PDI issue, Roderick Carpio of Katribu, wrote about the degradation of the environment in Mindoro, brought about by Marcopper. In a pluralistic democratic society like the Philippines, this is the other view. And a better one. We now have the Lafayette mining disaster in Rapu-Rapu, Albay. Yesterday, it was the mining tragedies in Mt. Diwalwal.

Let us face some lessons in history. The alleged billions of pesos expected from the mining industry under the Mining Law, even if realized, will not lift the poor from the morass of poverty. The poor will remain poor, for as long as the CBCP adheres to its present policy on population—not on mining.

The Mining Act will rob future generations of the resources held "in trust" by us for them.

Chile was mentioned by Cunanan as a good example. I would ask her to look at a small country, a neighbor of Australia, whose only natural resource was its topsoil of phosphate. This was transported to Australia, and the pitiful country was robbed of its only God-given wealth.

Cunanan's position on mining does not impress us as the opinion of an objective analyst; she sounds like a propagandist. Cunanan need not use ad hominem arguments to buttress her hollow point of view. The strong words she used reminds us of a committed bigot.

—NELSON D. LAVIÑA,
ambassador (ret.),
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Islam, Western civilizations contribute much to humanity

THE MUSLIM PROTESTS OVER THE cartoons depicting Prophet Mohammed may have lessons for us all. We may have to really define the limits of religious expression and press freedom, more specifically in relation to religion.

But in order to understand the Muslim sense of outrage over the cartoons, we have to first understand why Islam frowns upon depicting people as images. It is too simplistic to say that the Prophet may not be depicted in art. An imam told me that Islamic tradition holds that depicting people and animals is an "invitation to idolatry." The Prophet was at first rejected and persecuted by Meccans for preaching about the One unseen God and against their idolatry.

The West prides itself on secular values, but it had to pass through centuries of religious intolerance and bigotry. Secularism was a guarantee to prevent one religion from abusing another religion. But this is premised on a mutual respect for beliefs, and this includes respect for the non-belief of a tiny minority.

Citizens may disagree about religious dogmas and practice but, in a secular society, these disagreements should not be cause for violence. What has happened in Denmark and other countries in the European Union is that secularism has begun to be abusive to people who profess belief, Christians and Muslims included. These European newspaper publishers do not dare caricature gays, atheists, revolutionaries and other secular minorities in the name of freedom of expression. They do caricature Islam, or even Christian sects. In the West, offensive caricatures of the Roman Catholic Church and especially of the Pope are commonplace. These caricatures reinforce prejudices and stereotypes.

And this is the real root of the problem. Even with secular values that should promote openness and tolerance, the West still has a stereotypical and prejudiced view of Islam. Westerners need to have a large degree of cultural sensitivity in understanding Islam. They can start by meeting Muslims and dealing with them on a personal level.

And Muslims will need to move beyond the lamentable results of 1,000 years of Western intolerance to their faith and make a brave step to appreciate Western values not as a threat to their faith.

Islamic and Western civilizations have contributed much to humanity, and we will be poorer if we have a clash between the two.

—BENJAMIN VALLEJO JR., Ph.D.,
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EVAT in disguise

PRIOR TO THE 2-PERCENT EVAT INCREASE imposed last Feb. 1, so much assurance was given by the government as to the minimal effects it will have on prices.

Apparently some companies are using this 2-percent increase as a cover to tack hefty increases on the prices of their products.

A case in point: Last Jan. 22, I paid P2,900 for 30 Gabapentin tablets 600 mg at a drugstore in Angeles City. On Feb. 8, I was charged P3,340 for the same quantity of the same medicine. When I inquired why it was so expensive, I was told that the new increase was caused by the additional 2-percent in the EVAT.

When I consulted my calculator, it told me that 2 percent of P2,900 is P58 and not P430.

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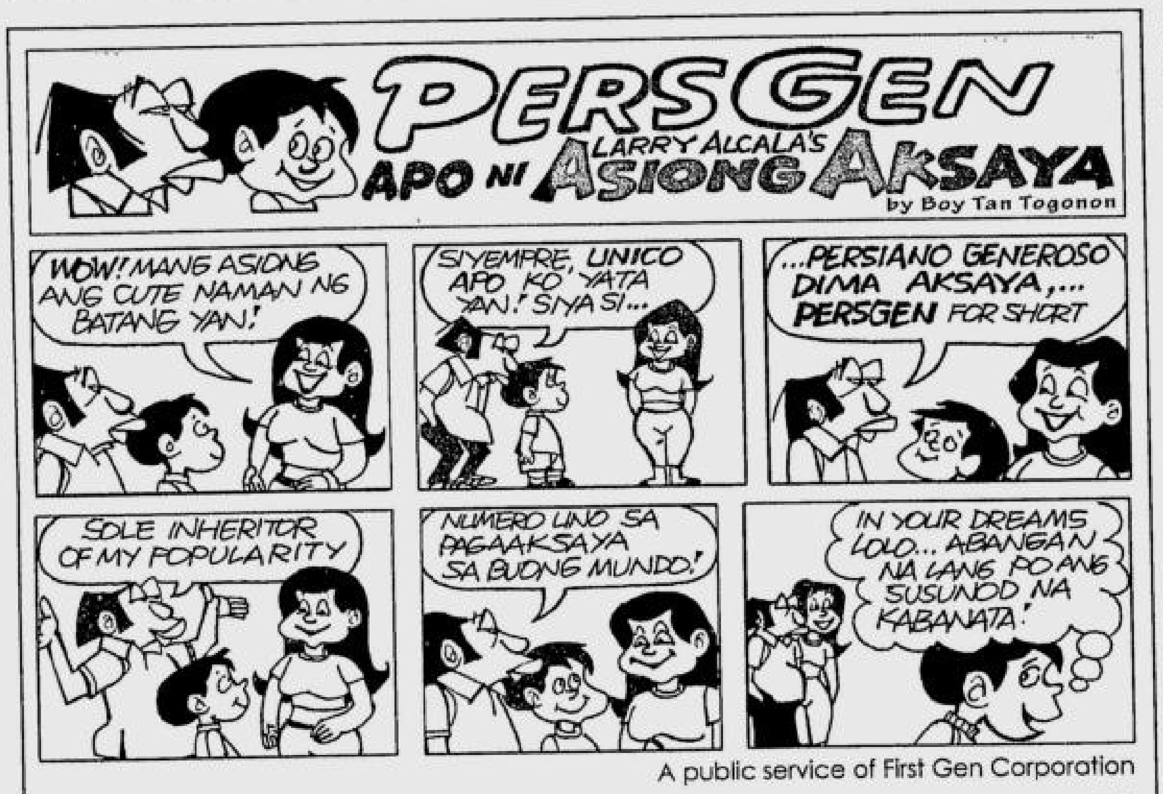
800 Malabanias Road,
2009 Angeles City


PERSGEN
LARRY ALCALA'S
APO NI ASIONG AKSAYA
by Boy Tan Togonon
WOW! MANG ASIONG ANG CUTE NAMAN NG BATANG YAN!
SIYEMPRE, UNICO APO KO 'YATA YAN! SIYA SI...
...PERSIANO GENEROSO DIMA AKSAYA,... PERSGEN FOR SHORT
SOLE INHERITOR OF MY POPULARITY
NUMERO UNO SA PAGAAKSAYA SA BUONG MUNDO!
IN YOUR DREAMS LOLO... ABANGAN NA LANG PO ANG SUSUNOD NA KABANATA!

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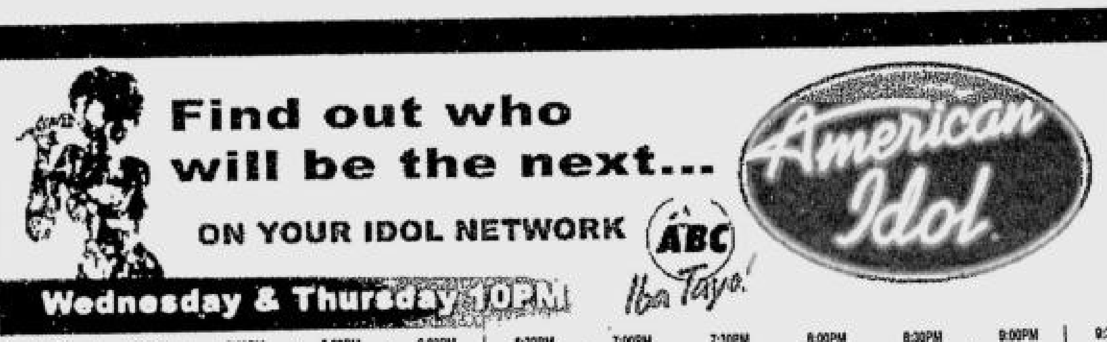
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Tuesday, February 21, 2006



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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)		World Pool League				Sentro	Mumbai Thrillers	ABC Action Movies				Big News	ALI		Billboard On-Air	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins		TV Patrol World	Gulong Ng Palad	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Princess Lulu	Pinoy Big Brother		Bora			Insider
AXN		Las Vegas		Las Vegas		Maximum Exposure (Season II)		Lost		24		When Animals Attack		Alias		Mondo Magic Singapore	The World's Wildest Commercials	Totally Outrageous	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show		Baby Looney Tunes	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Energy Bomb	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinema One		Age Doesn't Matter				Bakit Pa Kita Minahal				Tatapatan Ko Ng Lakas Mo				I Will Survive				Ibigay Ko Ang Lahat	
Cinemax		Darkman II: The Return Of Durant (3:15 PM)				The Ticket (4:50 PM)			Into Thin Air: Death On Everest			Tremors 4: The Legend Begins			Cradle 2 The Grave (9:40 PM)			The Prosecutors (11:15PM)	
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport/MainSail	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Discovery Channel		I Shouldn't Be Alive		Rides		Man Made Marvels		Zero Hour		Wild Discovery		Hour Asia		Battleground: The Art Of War		Zero Hour		Crime Stories	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Phil Of The Future	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pro Billiards '04 Sudden Death 7-Ball NV USA		World Pool League '01		Winter X Games Classics CO USA		Watersports Programming Hot Water		Table Tennis 2003 Killerspin Extreme	Sportscenter Asia	Pro Billiards '05 BCA Open 9-Ball C'ships Finals		Table Tennis 2003 Killerspin Extreme	LPGA Golf SBS Open @ Turtle Bay Hawaii 2nd rd				Sportscenter Asia
ETC	The Insider Weekend	Outback Jack		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		One Tree Hill 2		The O.C. 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Catholic Social Teaching	Angelus (3:15 PM)	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Angels Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	The Gospel Of John	EWTN Gallery	Lord, Have Mercy	The Journey Home Encore		Council Of Faith	Good Or Evil: Who Decides?	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Rome Reports	Web Of Faith	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royal Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	La Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Etheria	Starstruck 3	My Name Is Kim Sam Soon	Jewel In The Palace		Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	McLeod's Daughters IV		Wedding Daze (3:50 PM)			Who's The Boss? II	Bewitched	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy		Hercules			Family Law III (10:35PM)		Strong Medicine
HBO	The Last Samurai (2:45 PM)						Falling In Love				Darklight			Black Rain				50 First Dates	
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Home Shopping Network		ME TV		Japan Video Topics		Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Raw				The Batman	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central Presents	South Park	The Man Show
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fixer	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Whose Line Is It Anyway?		Look For Less	Life & Style		Napa Style	Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	Guess Who's Coming To Decorate	
MTV Philippines	MTV Screen	Spring Break	Dyns		Punk'D	Pop Inc		MTV Hits					Get Spotted	TRL			Pimp My Ride		VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	MYX Finals	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops	Radio MYX	MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic	Wild Family Secrets	Seconds From Disaster		Is It Real?		Air Crash Investigation		Top 5 - Mysterious Universe		Wow!		About Asia		Nat Geographic Specials		Air Crash Investigation		Seconds From Disaster	
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Chatzone			Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Grease Gun Brothers				Masikip Ang Daigdig Sa Aking Dibdib				Fight Night 3				Pasan Ko Ang Daigdig				Open Water
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Striker Hungry Heart	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Love At Aegean Sea	Irene	Mars	Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit	My Guardian Baby		News On Q	Sana'y Muling Makapiling		MINT (Music Interactive)	
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Global Window				Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Real Gilligan's Island		The Cut		Paradise Hotel		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Trust		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		SBN Music Video			
Solar Sports							2003 Pre All-Star Game Coverage					2006 Pre All-Star Game Coverage					Sportsdesk	All-England Finals	
Sports Plus				Bay Ban Celebrity Poker Challenge				Raceworld				Ultimate Fighting Championship				Party Poker.com World Open 2005			
Star Movies			Me, Myself and Irene (3:45 PM)				The Ladykillers (5:45 PM)				Marked For Death	I, Robot				Hold Up (10:50PM)			
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends (Series 10)	Charmed		The O.C.		North Shore		Friends (Series 10)	Charmed
Studio 23		Astroboy						Get Backers	Spirits	Wazzup Wazzup	Andromeda		Smallville (8:20 PM)	Point Pleasant (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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METRO

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Car theft suspects nabbed

By Nancy C. Carvajal

FOUR SUSPECTED CAR THIEVES WERE arrested at dawn yesterday after they were caught allegedly dismantling a pick-up in a dump in Malabon City.

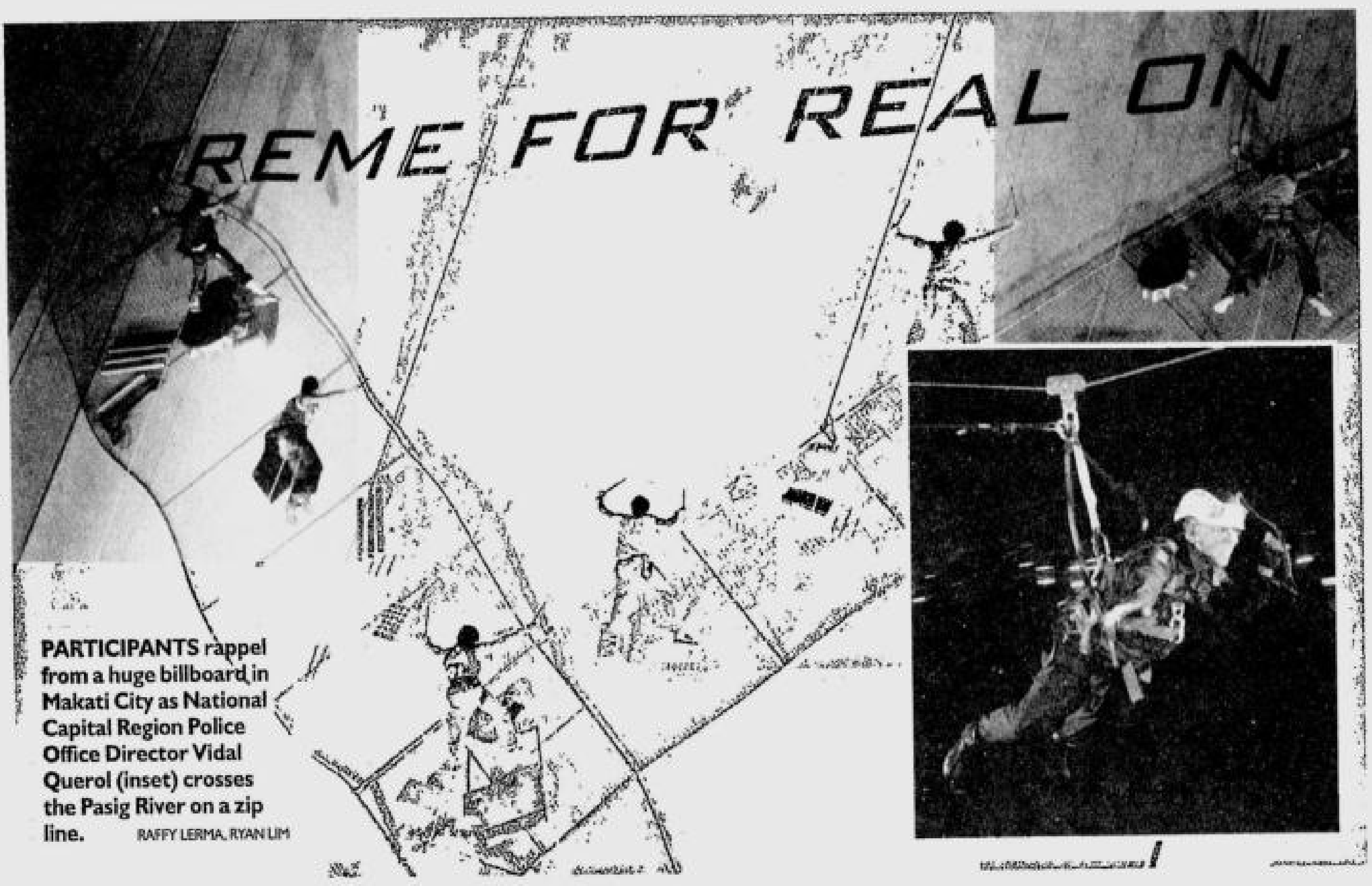
Northern Police District director Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said the suspects allegedly stole the red Ford pick-up of businessman Edgardo Carino, a resident of Mandaluyong City.

The vehicle, with plate number PDD 518, was parked on Guerrero St., Mandaluyong City when it was reported stolen. The suspects were identified as Reynante Arco, 26, Ian Boco, 34, both from the Welfareville compound in Mandaluyong; Jerry Marla 32, and Benjamin Cebuano, 37, residents of Dumpsite Sitio 6, Catmon, Malabon.

Bataoil said the car owner confirmed the recovered parts came from his pick-up. The victim said two of the suspects were known to him, Bataoil added. "Arco and Boco were part-time drivers of the victims and could have duplicated the car key," Bataoil said.

Among the items recovered from the suspects were the engine chassis, stainless camper shell with back body, alternator, battery, air-conditioner, radiator and tires.

Bataoil said residents reported the ongoing illegal activity. "The residents saw the suspects dismantling the vehicle," the NPD chief said. The suspects were arrested by a team headed by Senior Insp. Carlos Dilag when they failed to show documents proving ownership of the vehicle.



PARTICIPANTS rappel from a huge billboard in Makati City as National Capital Region Police Office Director Vidal Querol (inset) crosses the Pasig River on a zip line. RAFFY LERMA, RYAN LIM

Police director takes up 'extreme challenge'

By Tarra V. Quismundo

CALL IT EXTREME POLICE VISIBILITY.

In a daring stunt no other man of his position has pulled off, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Vidal Querol crossed the Pasig River from 180 feet above the ground, with only cables supporting his flight.

"While I was up there, I knew I had to enjoy it. This is once in a lifetime opportunity," Querol said, visibly happy after completing his stunt around 10:25 p.m. Sunday night.

Among the first acts in a promotional Rexona billboard stunt show at the Edsa-Guadalupe intersection in Makati City, Querol took off from the 160-foot-high billboard and crossed a descending 720-foot zip line traversing the width of Pasig River, from its Makati side to the Mandaluyong edge.

As he made the descent, Querol showed no fear of altitude, as he smiled and waved to the audience below. Upon touchdown, the NCRPO chief enthusiastically shook hands with spectators huddled by the bridge's safety balustrade.

High-altitude training in his youth paid off for the 55-year-old Querol who is more often seen on the ground, checking on his men and inspecting Metro Manila's commercial areas and checkpoints.

As a young skydiver, he had gone up to 15,000 feet for a sky jump. Some three decades ago, he also crossed rivers through zip lines as part of his ranger training.

For Sunday night's stunt, Querol had to go back to tugging that safety line for a brief refresher course on skills he had not tried for quite some time. "I did some body balancing and rappelling to brush up on my skills. Then I tried to find my center of gravity while suspended on air," he said.

Querol came to the event dressed for the part in an all-black Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) uniform, with a French helmet and goggles to boot.

"If you accept the challenge, just do your best," he said.

Pasig police undergo values 'reeducation'

By Luige A. del Puerto, Leila B. Salaverria and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE FORMER PASIG CITY POLICE CHIEF and his men will undergo a 15-day retraining program at the Subic Freeport Bay in Olongapo City. The 300-strong Pasig police force would go in groups, officials said.

Police spokesperson Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said PNP chief Arturo Lomibao wanted Senior Supt. Raul Medina to "lead his police force in the values and leadership training program," following the discovery of a "flea market" of illegal drugs near the Pasig police headquarters.

The Pasig one-stop shop for shabu addicts in Sitio Mapayapa in Barangay Sto. Tomas is less than a kilometer away from City Hall, and from the headquarters of both the Pasig City Police and the Eastern Police District (EPD).

A week after the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force based in Camp Crame raided the compound, Director Vidal Querol of the National Capital Regional Police Office relieved Medina, as well as the heads of the antinarcotics units of the EPD and Pasig City, from their posts.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency also sacked its six-man team in Eastern Metro Manila that covers Pasig, Marikina, Mandaluyong and San Juan. Sr. Supt. Romeo Abaring is now acting chief of the Pasig City Police.

Meanwhile, Pasig Rep. Roberto Jaworksi Jr. said yesterday he was verifying reports that the Pasig police's anti-illegal drugs division had been getting P1.2 million a month from the operations of the "shabu restaurants."

Jaworski had linked Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio earlier to the drug den operations.

"The amount received by the police is allegedly separate from that received by Pacman and the barangay," the congressman said at the Kapihan sa Maynila forum yesterday.

"Pacman" refers to the person allegedly collecting money from the drug operation for the city mayor's office. Investigators were shocked when Eusebio had the shanties in the area demolished days after the raid.

The mayor said he wanted to ensure illegal operations would not resume.

Jaworski said he would formally ask the Office of the Ombudsman to suspend Eusebio and would submit evidence to support his accusations.

Reacting to Jaworski's charges, Eusebio threatened to file a libel case against the congressman.

The mayor said he was open to any investigation, and laughed off Jaworski's allegations that he had a bagman.

Jaworski is widely believed to be planning to run for mayor next year, while Eusebio is reportedly grooming his son Bobby to replace him.

METROBRIEFS

Same suspects?

THE SUSPECTS in a car theft incident in Parañaque City that killed Richard Capili, a 19-year-old nursing student, last Feb. 12 could be part of the group that pulled off a heist in a security agency in Pasay City on New Year's Eve according to Parañaque City police chief Supt. Ronald Estilles. Raymond Bongabong and Roberto Pepito were among the suspects identified by witnesses as the men who broke into the Dasia Security Agency in Pasay on Dec. 31. "Our witness, a security guard, identified Bongabong as one of the suspects who barged into the security agency," SPO 3 Danny Unico told the INQUIRER. The robbers carted away 35 M-16 rifles, 15 shotguns, two handguns and 15 bullet-proof vests. A canteen helper and a building security guard later identified Bongabong as the gunman in the killing of Capili. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

One more time

A 29-YEAR-OLD man lost his car to thieves after midnight yesterday in Quezon City. Terence Sy was about to board his black Mazda (plate number XSR-173) in front of a convenience store on Tomas Morato Avenue when three armed men got off a white Toyota Corolla, pointed their firearms at him, and punched him repeatedly before taking off with his car and cellular phone, according to PO1 Gerald Maravilla, Kamuning police desk officer. *DJ Yap*

Leyte tragedy not God's doing

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE TRAGEDY THAT STRUCK BARANGAY Ginsaugon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, was an example of Mother Nature getting back at us for abusing her.

The mountain from which rocks and mud came sliding down into the barangay has been made bald obviously by illegal logging or slash-and-burn farming or *kaingin*.

The irony of it all is that the people who became victims of Nature's fury were not the ones who abused her. Many of the victims were children not yet capable of illegal logging and *kaingin*.

* * *

Floods and landslides are caused by the wanton cutting down of trees in our forests. The roots of trees absorb rainfall and prevent soil erosion. We used to have millions and millions of hectares of forests. Now only a few million hectares of forests remain. Loggers and slash-and-burn farmers destroyed our vast forests.

Greedy loggers didn't replace the trees they cut down. The *kaingeros* kept burning down trees to clear a part of the forest for their farm. After planting on the cleared area, the subsistence farmer looked for other areas to burn to make way for a new farm.

* * *

God is being blamed by some people for the tragedy at Southern Leyte. Why did He allow children to be buried alive under tons of mud, they ask. Said Maasin Bishop Precioso Cantillas: "Even in these most painful times, we believe that God continues to love us all, especially those who are severely affected."

The statement was uncalled for.

God loves everybody, the saints as well as the sinners. He doesn't punish us; we punish ourselves. Tragedies that befall us are of our own making, not God's.

The law of karma doesn't make any distinctions. We reap what we sow. The irony of it is the innocents suffer more than the culprits.

* * *

Yesterday was a red-letter day for my brother Erwin and I. We received Medals for Distinguished Service for tipping off the authorities on the existence of the shabu *tiangge* or market in Pasig City.

What Erwin and I did was no big deal. We just did what every civic-spirited citizen ought to do. The fight against crime is not the job of the police alone but of the citizenry. Without the participation of the citizenry, the fight against criminality will not succeed.

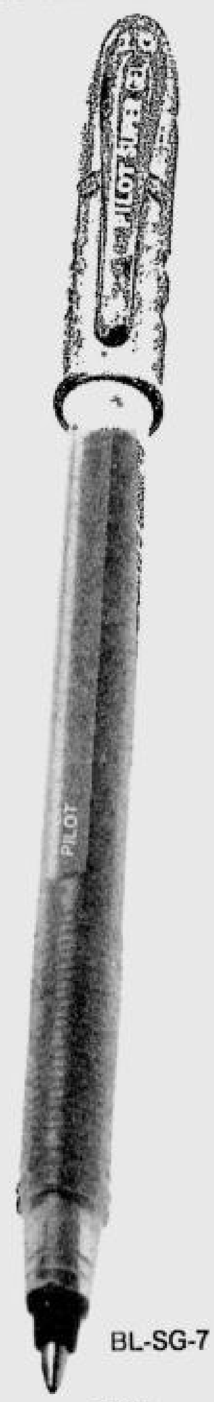
Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF VALENZUELA
Metropolitan Manila

Mayor SHERWIN GATCHALIAN is calling on all Valenzuelanos to share whatever they can to help the St. Bernard, Southern Leyte landslide victims.

Donations are accepted at the Valenzuela City Hall until Friday, February 24, 2006.

Please contact Ms. Venus Gaoiran or Ms. Marither Menia at 292-0211 for details.

Valenzuela, may DISIPLINA!



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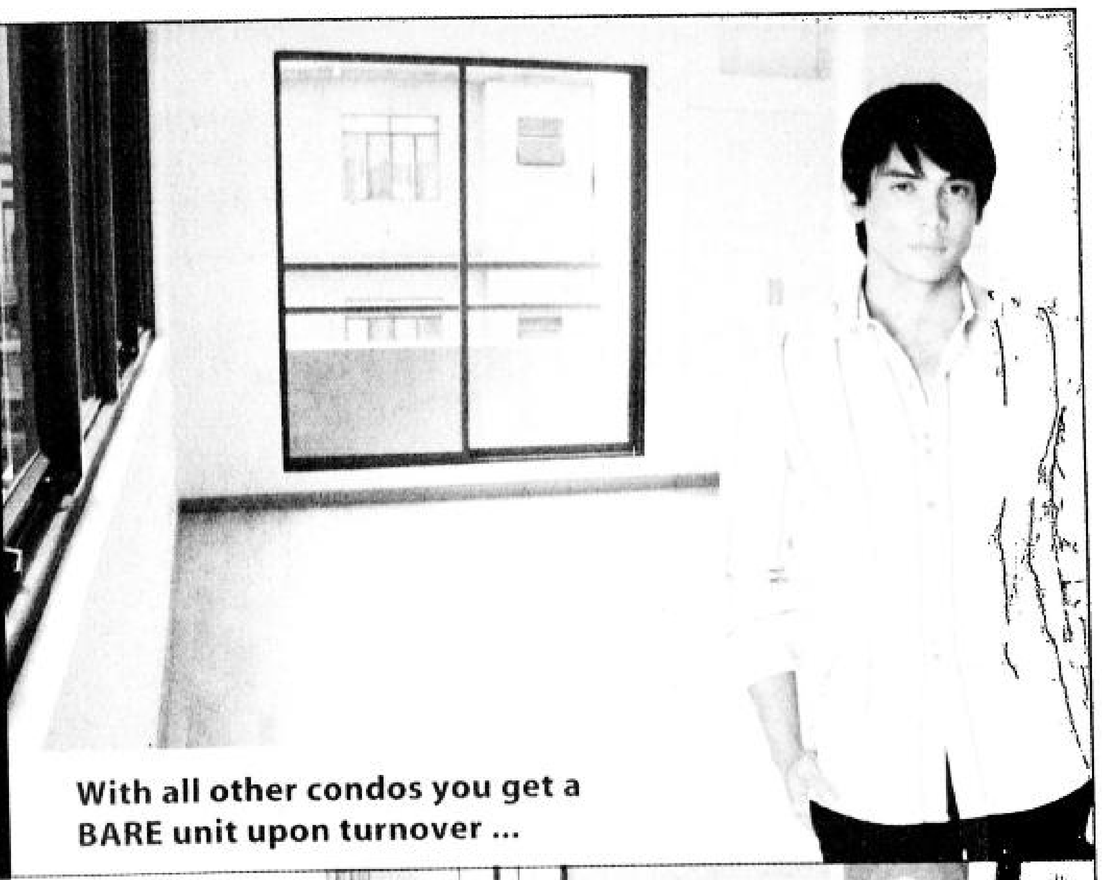

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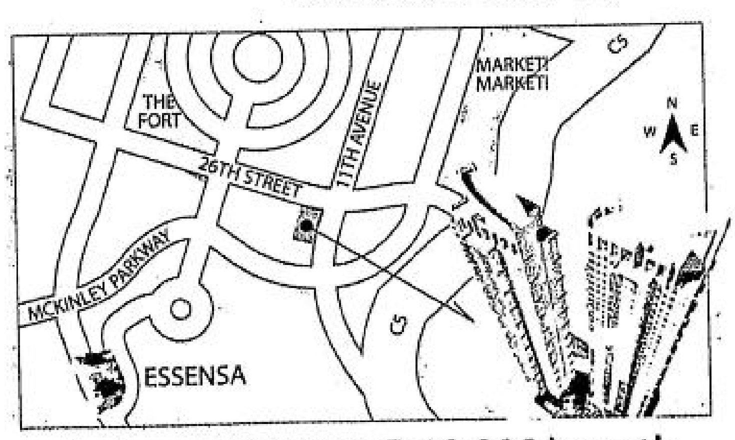
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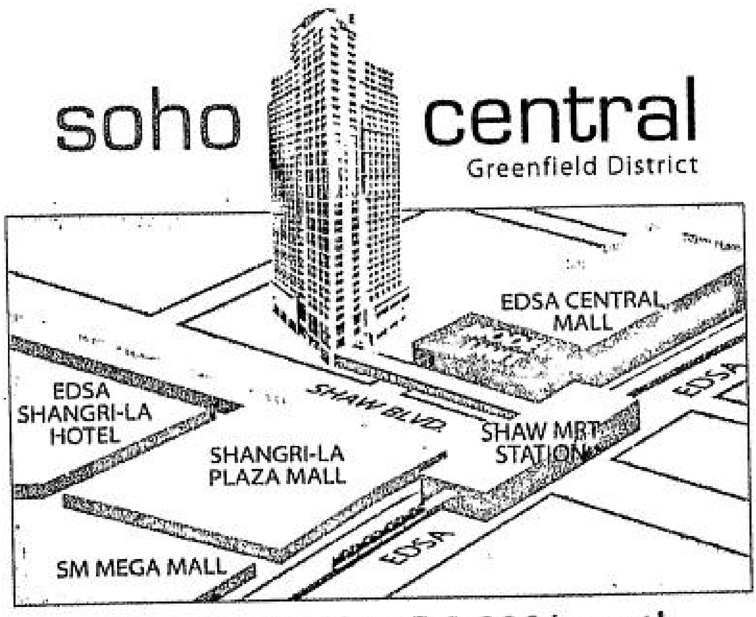
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THE PEOPLE

'Leaving on a jet plane' inspired air controllers

By Ben F. Romero III
(The writer is now assistant professor at St. Paul University in Quezon City.)

VERY FEW PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THE SILENT YET SIGnificant contribution of the technical personnel of the Bureau of Air Transportation (BAT), now the Air Transportation Office (ATO), in the triumph of Edsa I.

Planning to shut down airports to incoming and outgoing traffic in the event of an uprising was done even before in the aftermath of allegations of fraud committed by the regime during the snap election.

It was spearheaded by the Aero Mobile Service (AMS) personnel, where I used to be a supervisor, and had the tacit approval of some sympathetic section chiefs in spite of the risk of outright dismissal, or worse, incarceration.

We later informed officials of the Philippine Air Traffic Controllers Association and the Organization of Philippine Airways Communications Specialists of our objective.

Our plan involved an intricate closure of the entire Philippine Air Traffic System, the effects of which were vicious, crippling and hazardous to international air navigation.

The Philippine Air Traffic System is operated by three technical groups: the Air Traffic Controllers, the Airways Communicators and the Air Navigation Systems Specialists.

The staging ground for the closure would be AMS since its main function was to provide continuous HF and VHF communications to flight operations in the South East Asia and Central West Pacific regions.

The AMS was also the first line of contact for incoming international flights.

To avoid endangering international air navigation, we planned to issue surreptitiously a notice to airmen that our communications facilities were not functioning and could put flights at risk.

No take-off, landing

The scheme would therefore force aircraft to avoid overfly and landing and take-off in the Philippines, particularly in major international airports such a Manila, Cebu, Davao and Zamboanga.

We then contacted the Corazon Aquino camp, advising them of our plan that could put additional pressure on Marcos.

The Aquino camp obviously relayed our plan to the rebels. On Day 2 of the Edsa Revolution, we received a call from Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile on a possible meeting to implement our plan. It did not materialize, but the Aquino people gave us the green light.

Returning to the Airways Facilities Complex, we immediately went to work.

So effective

So effective was the strategy that even pilots calling us on the assigned frequencies understood and bid us good luck—a manifestation that the plan was working.

Our correspondents in the aeronautical fixed stations in Honolulu in the East, Udjung Pandang in the South, Naha in the North, Bangkok in the West were continually sending us very encouraging messages of support.

Heartwarming

That to us was simply amazing. Inquiries made through our land lines equally produced splendid results. Callers informing us that they have asked Marcos to go so flights can be restored were simply heartwarming.

On Day Three of the revolution, we received a call from Minister Enrile through the Manila Control Tower to open the Manila airways facilities as friendly forces from Zamboanga aboard a commandeered Philippine Airlines BAC11 would be coming to support the revolution.

Then a very welcome news was subsequently received from the Cojuangco camp, that we could resume normal operations—code name Juliet Delta had been accomplished. This was the code name we assigned to our mission, the international phonetic alphabet for John Denver and his popular song "Leaving on a Jet Plane."

That was what our mission was all about—to see Marcos leaving on a jet plane.

Did our plan pressure Marcos to finally leave? Does a ripple make waves?

PLDT España kept open lines to the world

By Luz T. Bunag

WHEN NEWS OF A military rebellion flashed around the world on Feb. 22, 1986, the international section of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was jammed with incoming and outgoing calls.

The PLDT office on España—one of two handling such calls—also became a magnet for a potential attack for troops seeking to disrupt vital communications with the outside world.

I was then PLDT's senior manager but I have since retired.

My main concern was relief for the 30-odd operators who had been working non-stop fielding calls, including those made by foreign reporters covering the Philippines.

I had rushed to the office and found out by the time I got there that people had converged in the area to protect the office. They said there were rumors that PLDT would be bombed. Barricades had been set up around the area and I had to plead with people manning them to let me through.

When I got there, I found out that all the operators were in high spirts in spite of the hardship. They genuinely thought that they were contributing to ease the anxiety of people worried about their loved ones.

At around 6 p.m., I looked out the window and saw that thousands of people had gathered on España and surrounding streets to protect the installation. Teenagers set up camp around the PLDT perimeter, some brewing coffee.

I noticed the coffee was not enough for a lot of them. So I immediately instructed the operator who was accompanying me to get more coffee, sugar, milk and cans of biscuits from our supplies to be distributed to the people outside.

It was just the start of a long vigil that ended four days later. I guess it was our small contribution to the success of the People Power revolution.

How precious freedom is

By Pablito F. Sanidad Jr.
(The writer is now a 25-year-old law student.)

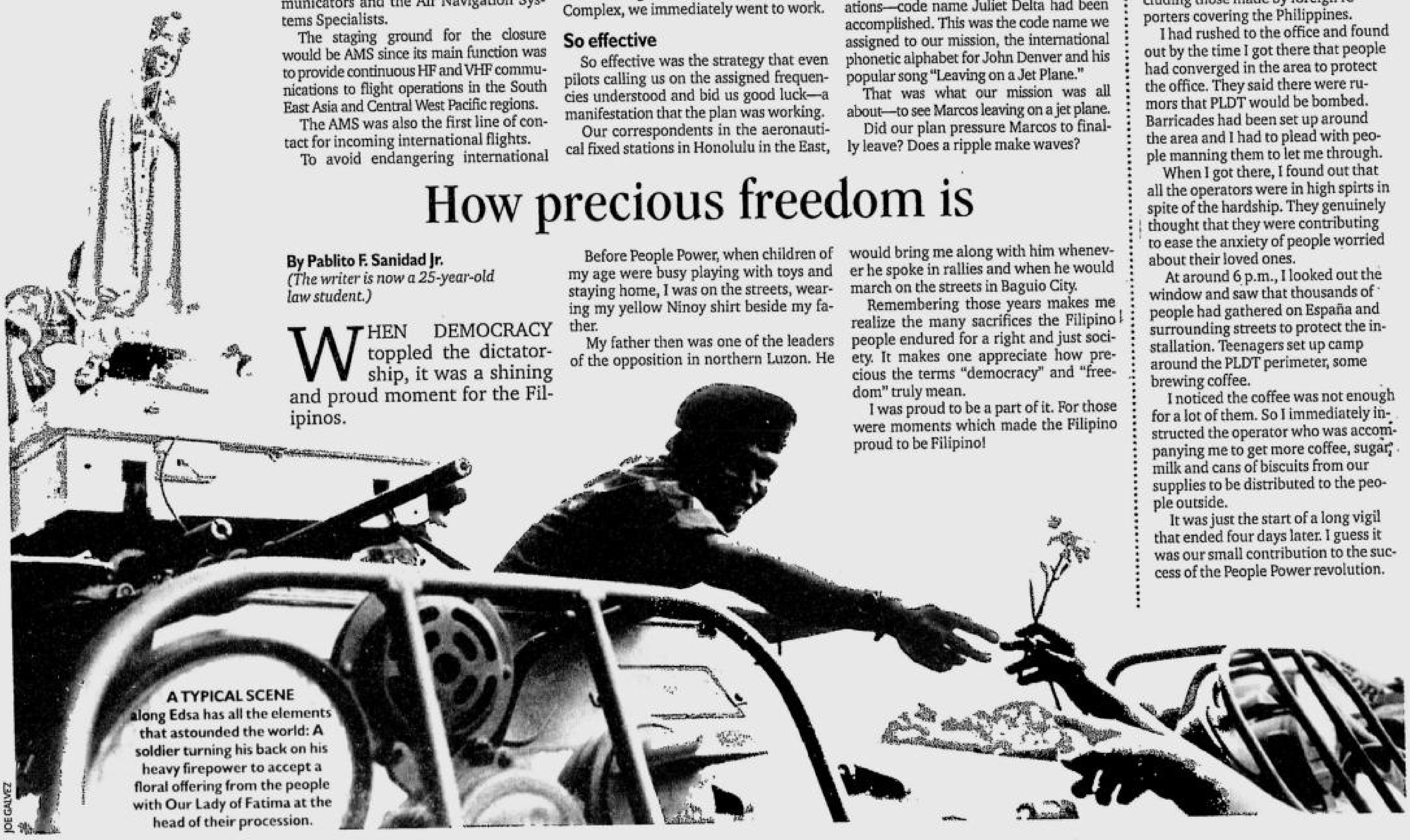
WHEN DEMOCRACY toppled the dictatorship, it was a shining and proud moment for the Filipinos.

Before People Power, when children of my age were busy playing with toys and staying home, I was on the streets, wearing my yellow Ninoy shirt beside my father.

My father then was one of the leaders of the opposition in northern Luzon. He would bring me along with him whenever he spoke in rallies and when he would march on the streets in Baguio City.

Remembering those years makes me realize the many sacrifices the Filipino people endured for a right and just society. It makes one appreciate how precious the terms "democracy" and "freedom" truly mean.

I was proud to be a part of it. For those were moments which made the Filipino proud to be Filipino!



JOE GALVEZ

A TYPICAL SCENE along Edsa has all the elements that astounded the world: A soldier turning his back on his heavy firepower to accept a floral offering from the people with Our Lady of Fatima at the head of their procession.

Kitchen brigade with no stove, water

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had run a catering service. I thought it would be a short-term task and I shanghaied my children to help out.

We were shown what once passed for a kitchen. There was no running water, stove or utensils there, much less food to cook.

Obviously, coup plotters don't really plan these things.

Somehow, 10 kilos of ground pork materialized, then two cases of pork and beans and some heads of cabbage. It was the first meal served to soldiers in the camp.

I made an appeal over Radio Veritas for help in the kitchen. The response was overwhelming. More volunteers came, as well as a truckload of firewood and 30 tubs of fish.

SMC donations

As the revolt progressed, more and more soldiers came over to our side such that we had to keep the kitchen going full time for 24 hours.

More food donations also came in. Amy Sison-Uichangco and her sister, the owner of Queens Supermarket, donated a truckload of paper plates, plastic cups, spoons and forks. This did not last long.

I then asked the men who were with us to cut the banana plants around the camp to use the stalks and leaves for plates.

San Miguel Corp. made daily deliveries of distilled water and chickens, which were sent to Dotty Coronel, who owned a bakery, for roasting. Someone donated a truckload of rice and another a truckload of eggs. There were candies, sandwiches, cookies and local pastries. Grounded airlines sent food.

More from Namfrel

A man came wearing a tie and a vest, not exactly a getup for a revolution. He said he was from the National Movement for Free Elections. He was set up at a corner of the kitchen and fried a whole truckload of eggs.

One can only look back wistfully at those four days when we rose to our best as a people. The common cause that we forged in those days made us do wonderful and extraordinary things.

I gave light

From page A1

chanting and wearing yellow. Actually, from that day on, yellow became my favorite color.

It was so typical at my age that situations were explained similar to those in a storybook so they would be easier for children to comprehend.

I used to ask my parents what was going on and I was told that a big bad wolf was being thrown out in the woods, that Little Red Riding Hood must be saved and we are going to help the poor girl in our own little way.

Now, I finally understood my family's simple contribution to Edsa I that led us back to our democracy.

My parents were into handicrafts since the '70s and the industry was booming until the late '90s.

My dad told me that on the second day of the peaceful upheaval the renowned movie director Ben Cervantes made a television appeal for donation of any form of lighting that would help the people to fight darkness and total blackout.

He said there was a possibility that power supply would be cut off and this could result in chaos and bloodshed.

When my dad heard this, he went to our warehouse and asked our employees and friends to gather and prepare bamboo torches.

I went with my parents to bring the torches to Edsa. I was so excited that I even wore Ninoy Aquino's yellow shirt.

We distributed the torches to the people in Edsa. I was even making the L (laban) sign, which I knew was Cory's trademark. I was chanting "Cory" as well. I did not fully understand it then but I knew I was fighting for something. It was for our democracy.

Our bamboo torches might not have brought down Marcos but they certainly helped some Filipinos to see light in the midst of darkness.

20 YEARS later, Julie, who has just taken the bar exams, says that "we helped some Filipinos see the light."

AT 6, Julie Garcia helps the family, who was into handicrafts, provide torches to fight the darkness.

Bishop Soc slams gov't, Edsa I 'pimps, rapists'

BISHOP VILLEGAS: Spare People Power from immoral politics. It's the victim, not the culprit. PDI PHOTO

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The two officials had then just broken away from Marcos after serving in the strongman's inner circle for many years.

40 thieves back

Villegas said moving out of the powerful Metropolitan See of Manila to the low-key diocese in Bataan had afforded him a new outsider's perspective on Edsa I.

He said one thing he had realized was that Filipinos reaped only "bad politics, politics without moral principles, [and] transactional politics" from those who directly benefited from Edsa I and II.

"We must never allow any politician to ever tamper with people power again," he said.

"The hope of our nation is not in the politician-beneficiaries of people power. [They] have betrayed the trust of the people. We drove away Ali Baba but the 40 thieves have taken over! It is very sad. It is very disheartening," he said.

Villegas stressed that people power was not to blame, but the "transactional politics" that had abused it.

Not enough members

"The innocent youthful beauty of People Power has been raped," he said. "People Power is the victim, not the culprit."

The bishop expressed disdain over the idea of another regime change through People Power.

"I do not believe anymore in using People Power to change governments," he said, pointing out that such a mode was now a thing of the past.

"Let ambitious politicians not entertain thoughts of using People Power to get into office again," he said.

Last year, there were calls for People Power to unseat Ms Arroyo, the beneficiary of Edsa II in January 2001. But the numbers were not enough, even at the height of the clamor for her resignation amid continued doubts over the legitimacy of her victory in the 2004 election.

Observers attributed the failure, not to popular support for Ms Arroyo, but to a public tired of yet another political upheaval.

Villegas said the woes born from Edsa I and II should teach Filipinos that "people power without inner conversion will not lead us to the Promised Land but to the valley of darkness."

"The aim of People Power is change of heart—conversion. We changed presidents but forgot to change within," he said.

Empowerment of the poor

The emerging face of the desired inner change is the empowerment of the poor through cooperatives, micro-financing, free education, housing projects and nutrition programs, Villegas said.

"People Power, raped by politicians, is ready to stand up and start anew," he said, adding:

"May God spare People Power from immoral politics. People Power can be betrayed, raped and abused, but because People Power is from God, it will live on, in another form, with another face, but remaining always the same—for the good of God's people and in the name of peace."

Villegas also said that even if it had been "blackened by human abuse," the peaceful revolt would remain beautiful—"the splendor of God who walks among His people." *Christian V. Esguerra*

UP geologist cites 3 reasons why village collapsed

By DJ Yap

LOOSE VOLCANIC ROCKS, THICK soil drenched in La Niña rains, and the Philippine fault line traversing the town of St. Bernard—these are ingredients for a recipe for disaster, according to a University of the Philippines geologist.

The scientist conducted a field study of Southern Leyte geology in April 2003 with her students.

The place is a "hazard," said Carla Dimalanta, an associate professor at UP National Institute of Geological Sciences.

First, the volcanic rocks or "pyroclastic materials," present in the mountainous slopes were not "consolidated," meaning, they were not hard enough, she said.

"They're slightly loose, so when they get saturated with water, they become unstable. It's easy for the rocks to slide," Dimalanta said at a press conference called by Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) yesterday.

Rocks like soil

"These are igneous rocks—hard rocks. But since they are bisected by the fault zone, they're like soil all broken up," she continued.

Second, as a result of weathering, the rocks formed a thick soil cover, she said.

There is also evidence of hydrothermal alterations—made when water runs through a substance—converting some of the rocks to clay minerals.

"Clay minerals are soft. When they get wet, they become more unstable," she added.

Third, La Niña came, softening the soil cover, which had already been rendered unstable by the fault line and the previous rainfall, she said.

"We recognized the hazards and risks" and the area was later included in the geo-hazard map drafted by several government agencies, she said.

Wrong ingredients

But no one could have foreseen the landslide that buried so many people, erasing an entire barangay from the map, Dimalanta said.

"Nobody could predict something like this," she said. "All the wrong ingredients were put together, which is why you have this disaster. We recognized the features, but not to the extent that we could say there's going to be a landslide."

For instance, "we were not aware that there was going to be La Niña this year, as well as other parameters," Dimalanta said.

Voices heard below the ground, rhythmic knocking

From page A1

where the school was entombed.

The team, led by mountaineer Rted Esguerra of the Philippine Coast Guard, picked up what the governor believed to be "a sound of life" with the help of sensitive ground sensors.

As Lerias spoke, US Marines 1st Lt. Rex Laceby came asking if he could have more shovels for his comrades because "they think they heard voices down there."

The voices were heard just "by the school," Laceby said.

Survivors unconfirmed

Soon after, Lerias' daughter Marissa said on GMA TV that she had received reports from rescuers that they had heard sounds of knocking.

"There is knocking, there is knocking," Marissa said in near tears. "The numbers I was given were big," referring to rumors swirling around town of survivors having been found.

The report of possible signs of life sparked a wave of rumors.

At one point, GMA News reported that "50 survivors" had been found but there was no official confirmation.

Local Government Undersecretary Marius Corpus said he had also received information that an unspecified number of people had been "rescued."

But a US military spokesperson said last night that US Marines searching at the site had not found any survivors so far, dismissing reports that they had found 50 survivors.

Capt. Burrell Parmer said he had spoken to the commander of US forces digging at the site of the buried school.

"They have yet to receive any word on any type of survivors," Parmer said. "I asked for specifics, and I asked had they received or found any type of survivors, and the answer was no."

Instead of survivors, rescue workers pulled out 13 bodies from the mounds of mud yesterday, officials said.

In a 9:30 press briefing last night, Lerias corrected reports about survivors having been actually pulled out from the depths.

"We are still very hopeful that we would be able to rescue survivors and to correct whatever (was reported) in the excitement of hearing some good news, considering people are tired," she said.

The trapped schoolchildren and teachers were among an estimated 1,800 to 2,000 people believed to be in the village when it was blanketed by an avalanche of mud, rocks and boulders last Friday. Most of the villagers were feared dead.

'Praise God'

"First we heard scratches (last Sunday). Now it's rhythmic tapping. It cannot be just a rat making those sounds," a visibly elated Lerias said. "It's enough that we heard a sound of life. Hallelulal Praise God!"

The bits of encouraging news prompted the governor to send more power generators for lighting at the dig site so the various rescue teams could work in shifts overnight.

JUNGLE WARFARE, or so the humanitarian mission of the US Marines would appear as they go through a hanging bridge on their way to the elementary school that vanished under the earth. BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

It marked the first time since the tragedy that two separate rescue teams reported hearing movement and gave different descriptions of what they picked up from the muddy depths.

Some 10 to 30 feet of mud was estimated to have covered the village.

Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, overall commander of search and rescue, said his men were elated when equipment detected "signs of life" underneath.

"We were really happy when the readings of the equipment showed that there were signs of life underneath," he told the INQUIRER.

Foreigners focus on school

Among these signs included "knocking and scratching" beneath the piles of mud, he said.

Ramos said rescuers, including foreign experts from the United States, Malaysia, Spain and Taiwan, were focusing their efforts on the school.

Ramos said their operations were hampered by boulders and loose sand.

The pupils and teachers of Guinsaugon Elementary School were celebrating "Women's Day" when tons of mud and rocks tumbled down the mountain and wiped Guinsaugon off the map.

As of 11:30 p.m. yesterday, a total of 85 bodies had been recovered while about 900 people remained missing.

Some 21 survivors remained confined at a district hospital in Anahawan town.

The search for survivors had centered on the school following reports that some of those trapped underneath had sent cell phone text messages to relatives soon after the disaster Friday.

However, no survivors have been pulled out from the 40-hectare morass that used to be Guinsaugon.

Something down there

"We know there's something down there," US Marine Lt. Richard Neikirk said earlier yesterday, pointing to a spot under a big boulder, where seismic sensors detected sounds.

"The farther down we went, the signals grew stronger."

A Malaysian team using sound-detection gear picked up noises, too.

"We have a sound," said Sahar Yunos of the Malaysian rescue team. "Knocking, something like that."

A rescue dog also stopped three times at one spot away from where rescue workers were digging.

Meter by meter

At times in heavy rains, rescue workers were digging at two places—one that was believed to be the original site of the school, close to the mountain that collapsed, the other 200 meters down the hill, where the landslide could have carried it.

Dozens of US Marines and Philippine soldiers, along with miners, were digging in a watery spot, using shovels on the muck and moving it with body bags, while draining the murky fluid with large water bottles.

The search was a painstaking process as the crews went meter by meter.

Sensors detect 'noise'

The US Marines deployed nine seismic sensors that can detect vibrations underground. With everyone standing still, one man then used a steel bar to hit on a rock several times and waited for any kind of response underground.

Four sensors detected some "noise" or vibration, but the men could not tell what it was.

They were followed by the 15-man Malaysian team using sensor gear called Delsar and employing similar techniques.

Five Taiwanese, who brought heat-imaging equipment, arrived to check for signs of life, too.

Rescuers were radioing for water pumps and floodlights to continue working through the night.

Search dogs waded through the mud as troops and volunteers dug with shovels. No one has been pulled alive from the nine-square-kilometer morass since the first hours of the tragedy.

National disaster officials in Manila said the number of missing was 1,350, including 246 schoolchildren.

There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy in the numbers given in Manila and by officials here.

Officials in Manila said 434 people survived the disaster.

Hopes of finding more people alive had seemed remote because the village was inundated by a dense wall of mud and rock, making it unlikely that many air pockets would form beneath the sodden surface.

On Sunday at the Vatican, Pope Benedict prayed for the landslide victims.

Pope's prayers

"Our hearts turn to all those suffering the devastating consequences of the landslide in the Philippines. I ask you to join me in praying for the victims, their loved ones and all those affected," the Pope told a large crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square to hear his weekly Angelus blessing.

"May the grieving families experience the consolation of the Lord's presence and rescue workers be assured of our concern and support," he said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Norman Bordadora and Nikko Dizon*

Miriam urges probe

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-Santiago, in a resolution, urged the Senate to inquire into the causes of deforestation in the province, adding that some experts had attributed the tragedy to illegal logging and the "devastating effects of the *kaingin* system."

Experts have said they believed the landslide was caused by heavy rainfall on a geologically hazardous area.

The Coast Guard called on those who want to donate goods to landslide victims but do not know how to transport them to the province to bring them to the agency's Manila headquarters.

The PCG commandant, Vice Adm. Arthur Gosingan, has designated the BRP Romblon as the carrier for donations.

The first to heed the appeal were the students of the Asian Academy of Business and Computers, a newly opened school in Cubao, Quezon City.

The students brought boxes and plastic bags filled with canned goods, clothes and stuffed toys.

Police officials pitched in one day's worth of their salary for the rescue efforts.

Director General Arturo Lomibao led senior officials in donating cash even as he ordered the Region 8 Police to make available its resources and people to the rescue mission. *With reports from Luige del Puerto, Philip C. Tubeza and Leila B. Salaverria*

GMA sends off Spanish rescue team, dogs to Leyte

From page A1

seeing them off yesterday.

Accompanying the dogs—and also the subject of the President's warm sendoff—were three Spanish rescuers and a doctor, as well as three rescue teams from the Philippine Air Force presidential wing.

They will beef up efforts to find survivors in landslide-ravaged Barangay Guinsaugon in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte.

"Thank you for sending us the K-9 dogs and experts. Spain is the latest of so many countries to help," Ms Arroyo said at the PAF operations base at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

More to come

With Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz and Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes, the PAF commanding general, flanking her, Ms Arroyo enumerated the countries that had sent or pledged assistance—Malaysia, the United States, Singapore, the People's Republic of China and Taiwan.

"We'd like to thank everybody for the outpouring of support," she said.

The Spanish rescue team arrived at around 7 a.m. at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport aboard a KLM Airlines flight.

Two more Spanish rescuers and two more K-9s are expected to arrive today, said Adelio Cruz, executive director for protocol of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The President spent about half an hour at Villamor inspecting the relief goods, supplies and equipment from various donors and watching as these were loaded on a C-130 plane.

150 Air Force soldiers

She also chatted with the PAF soldiers, conversed with Sagaz in Spanish, and patted a golden retriever, one of the three K-9s from Spain.

Also present at the sendoff were Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and Ms Arroyo's chief of staff, Michael Defensor.

Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, PAF spokesperson, said that as of yesterday, some 150 Air Force soldiers from the 505th Search and Rescue Group in Mactan Air Base and the PAF auxiliary units had been dispatched to Guinsaugon to take part in the search-and-rescue operations.

VIP RECEPTION for the canines from Spain with no less than President Arroyo seeing them off at the Villamor Air Base bound to do duty at the mudslides site. LYN RILLON

MORE INT'L AID COMING

US to divert 3,000 GIs to Leyte

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Nikko Dizon

IRAQ WAS NEVER LIKE THIS: US Marine LCpl Ray Hayes attached to the 31st MEU from Okinawa helps pull fellow Marines up a mud-caked boulder during rescue and reconstruction efforts in Guinsaugon. AP

AS MANY AS 3,000 AMERICAN troops, or more than half of the United States contingent in the joint Balikatan military exercises in Sulu, would be diverted to St. Bernard, Leyte to help in landslide search and rescue operations.

The rest of the 5,500-person US contingent would continue with anti-terrorism exercises and civic missions in Sulu, Cebu and parts of Luzon where the exercises would be held, Brig. Gen. Mastin Robeson, exercise director for the US military said during the opening ceremonies in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

"We diverted at least 2,500 to 3,000 of our airmen, sailors and soldiers to Southern Leyte to assist in search and rescue operations," Robeson told reporters.

He said their troops would be working with the Armed Forces of the Philippines Central Command under Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin in the search and rescue operations.

Thousands of Philippine soldiers are at the disaster site since a massive landslide hit the barangay Friday morning, burying about 2,000 residents including about 240 school children.

US officials said the scheduled Balikatan exercises in Sulu and elsewhere in the country would go on.

"Nothing is going to be taken away from that operation by deploying some of our assets to the operation in [Southern] Leyte. We can do both together," US Chargé d'affaires Paul Jones said.

Win-win situation

"We can do it simultaneously ... I think it's a win-win situation. We're still working together shoulder to shoulder. We're not skipping a beat," said Robeson.

He said 200 US Marines were at the disaster site as of yesterday morning. He added they could deploy as many as 500 at the disaster site.

The rest of the diverted troops would man three battle ships that would be used to ferry relief supplies, he said.

At the ceremonial opening of the 2006 Balikatan, the 22nd large-scale joint war exercises between the Philippines and the United States, officials from both sides said the exercises have in recent years included medical and engineering missions by US troops.

AFP chief of staff, Gen. Generoso Senga, said civic missions which partly address poverty "are part of the war on terrorism."

"I'm happy to note that focus of the Balikatan has shifted to the tragedy we are facing now in Southern Leyte," he said.

Rescue operations have been focused on an elementary school building where some 206 children and 40 teachers were believed to have been entombed, and a village hall, where a meeting was being held when the landslide hit. *(See story on Page A1.)*

US Marines diverted

US Marines from amphibious ships USS Essex and USS Harper's Ferry had just docked Friday at Subic Bay when they received urgent orders to turn around and head for Southern Leyte.

"Our main activity has been searching for survivors on the site," said Col. James Vohr, commander of a US Marine expeditionary unit service support group that arrived in St. Bernard on Sunday.

"We're going to supply support to both the site and the evacuation centers," Vohr said.

One platoon with shovels and body bags trekked yesterday toward the presumed site of the village school, which had become the focus of the search.

The rest of the 225-member US Marine team was setting up a water purification system on the site, Vohr said.

Fifteen giant helicopters from the Essex flew to the site with supplies from Tacloban City to the north.

Change of mood

In Cebu City, 60 American and Filipino military officers have shifted their joint Balikatan exercises into directing the search and rescue operations in St. Bernard.

Lt. Col. Jefferson Omandam, Armed Forces Central Command spokesperson who participated in the activity, said the five-day exercises started yesterday at the Cebu City Marriott Hotel.

But instead of Combined Task Force Staff Exercises, he added, the group focused on planning the search operation for about 900 residents of Barangay Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, who were buried under mud and rocks.

"We have already shifted and changed our mode of activity. We are now turning into a command post exercise and acting as a combined task force to address the Leyte tragedy," Omandam said yesterday.

Experts from Taiwan

Aside from the US troops, other countries are taking part in the search and rescue operation.

Among them is a 30-strong Taiwanese specialist team who waded through mud and debris to try to locate the school where some 200 pupils and 40 teachers were buried under tons of mud and rock.

Joseph Chang, a foreign ministry official coordinating the Taiwanese effort, said yesterday they were trying to locate the school.

"Local rescue teams have managed to pinpoint where the school once stood but they may be focusing on the wrong area," Chang said. "In a landslide, the crush of mud and boulders would have pushed the building away. Rescuers had looked at maps to find where the building once stood but it may no longer be on that spot."

His team has sonar and video equipment and will comb an area below where the school once probably stood.

"We will try to do our best to look for bodies and possible survivors. We have had a lot of experience in this sort of thing," Chang said.

Some 70 Malaysian medics were also at Barangay Guinsaugon looking after survivors.

Help from China, Japan

The People's Republic of China yesterday turned over to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) a $250,000- (P12.9 million) check as part of its $1-million (P51.9 million) donation for the landslide victims in Southern Leyte.

Duque told reporters that several other countries made "pledges and commitments" of financial help but they are still waiting for the Philippine government to furnish them a "needs list from the affected areas."

"They want to know the actual needs of the affected areas and the NDCC has an assessment team to determine these actual needs," Duque said in an interview at the DFA.

Aside from the $250,000 check, the Chinese government also pledged $750,000 (P38.9 million) worth of material goods for the landslide victims.

The Japanese Embassy said on Sunday that its government would provide relief items amounting to Y25 million (P10.9 million) for the landslide victims.

The relief items include tents, sleeping mattresses, blankets, generators, cable codes, water tank, water purification units, plastic canteens and plastic rolls.

Australia, S. Korea, Canada

Australia would send a small team of engineers to the Philippines to assist with damage assessment and reconstruction efforts following a massive mudslide, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said yesterday.

Canberra pledged to send a five-member engineering team and A$1 million dollars (P38.4 million) in aid.

South Korea would send $1 million (P51.9 million) in cash and relief supplies, including food, medicine and blankets, its Foreign Ministry said in a statement yesterday.

Canada said it was preparing to send help while the Greek government offered more than $350,000 (P18.1 million) in aid.

New Zealand, Singapore

New Zealand said yesterday it would provide NZ$200,000 dollars (P6.9 million) to help with rescue and recovery efforts in Southern Leyte.

Singapore said yesterday it was sending humanitarian relief supplies for survivors of last week's massive landslide in the southern Philippines.

The Singapore Red Cross would also donate S$100,000 (P3.1 million) to the Philippine National Red Cross for the relief effort, it said. *With reports from AFP and AP*

Hi-tech 'life detectors' St. Bernard's best hope

By Volt Contreras

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN Leyte—Aside from prayers and sheer will power, high-tech gadgets capable of hearing heartbeats from someone trapped deep in the ground may be this town's best hope of finding survivors in a village swamped by a landslide.

The catastrophe that struck Barangay Guinsaugon saw the use of cutting-edge "life-detectors" relying on sonar, video, or audio amplifiers to catch the slightest movement and images beneath layers of soil, rock, or concrete.

They were mainly brought by two foreign rescue teams, from Taiwan and Malaysia, who are all veterans of international emergency situations, including the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

The 33-man Taiwanese team brought sonar and video detectors.

Picking up heartbeats

The first type is a box-like device placed on the ground surface and wired with earpieces through which a rescuer can listen, said Joseph Chang, a Taiwanese foreign liaison officer.

This type of sonar equipment can pick up "the sound of breathing or heartbeats" from up to 20 meters below the surface, Chang said.

Another variation of the device can sense body heat, he explained.

What the eye can't see

The video detector is made up of a rod or probe about three meters long, which is fitted with a video screen at one end and an adjustable lens at the other.

The tip with the lens is inserted through holes or narrow openings "to look into where the eye cannot reach" and the captured image registers on the video screen, Chang said.

The Malaysians brought a set of Delsar "trapped person locator," a more elaborate contraption that employs wires and sensors pegged on the surface being searched.

Pegged into ground

It was through a Delsar system that a Philippine rescue team on Sunday heard "scratching" sounds from beneath the spot assumed to be where an elementary school holding more than 200 pupils and teachers was buried.

The Delsar is mainly made up of a long cord fixed with sensors every 10 meters. The sensors are then "pegged" into the ground. Earphone attachments allow at least two persons to listen in at the same time.

The six-sensor unit brought by the Malaysians can cover ground with a radius of 50 meters, said Mohammad Yaacob Yussof of the Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance Team (Smart).

Beehive of activity

As of yesterday, the rescue staging area some 2 km from the disaster site was a frenzy of multinational activity.

American troops diverted from the RP-US Balikatan exercises numbered 148, pitching several tents and brandishing the most modern communications gadgets, vehicles and other equipment.

A six-man K9 team from Spain also arrived, with two search dogs.

On the Filipino side, there were 598 rescuers from the military and police and 455 from civilian volunteer groups.

The total number of rescuer workers stood on Sunday at 1,271—far exceeding the 928 villagers officially reported as missing.

REUTERS

AFTER PRAYERS for the dead/ missing, Catholic nuns on Ground Zero take photographs of each other with the Kan-Abag mountain in the background.

HELPING HANDS from the US and Taiwan who are digging into the rubble wherever they believe that there are still signs of life under the ground.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Las Vegas car salesman wages desperate search for missing kin

GUINSAUGON, SOUTHERN Leyte—His chubby frame half buried in the thick mud, Las Vegas car salesman Norman Barrister is waging a desperate personal search for 10 members of his family buried alive by a landslide.

After sneaking past Army rescue personnel before dawn yesterday, the 35-year-old Filipino-American navigated by memory through a sea of mud and rocks that cascaded down the slopes of Mount Kan-abag last Friday and buried his childhood home in Guinsaugon village.

This is the same mountain slope that once provided his family members with their livelihood—his grandfather tended a coffee plantation there.

Now, it's just a heap of mud.

Barrister, born in Guinsaugon, left the village in 1991 for the United States with his American father and Filipina mother. They left behind his half-brother and members of the extended family, hoping they could one day join them in America.

Tears streamed down his mud-caked face as he alternately used his hands and a shovel to dig. Barrister said he still hopes his relatives are alive three days after the tragedy.

Seventy-two bodies have so far been recovered and over 1,000 more are believed buried after the village on the central island of Leyte was wiped off the map.

Text from brother

Barrister jumped on the first flight from Las Vegas shortly after hearing of the tragedy. He arrived Sunday.

"My beloved grandfather, mother, my brother, aunt, cousins and their children are in there. We cannot lose hope," he told a passing rescue team, begging them for assistance.

Barrister said he knows his brother was still alive some seven hours after the tragedy Friday because of a mobile-phone message he sent to his girlfriend.

"That was the last we heard from my brother," he said, adding that surviving relatives told him the entire family was having snacks when the tragedy happened.

'One dog, please'

"My aunt is a member of a local women's charitable institution and there was some sort of gathering here," he said, pointing to a huge boulder where he believes the family compound once stood.

"I am sure some of the houses are here, I just need one dog please," he appealed to a passing canine rescue team headed in the opposite direction. "That area there is a valley, there are no houses there, believe me please."

As a teenager in Guinsaugon, Barrister played with his friends on the mountain famed for its sweet spring water.

Whenever it rained, deep gullies would form at the top of the mountain creating small waterfalls and landslides, he recalled.

Not the mountain he knew

"But that was a normal thing. I never thought that one day this mountain would swallow my relatives," he said, directing the rescuers to an area where he believes the primary school is located.

More than 200 children and 40 teachers were inside at the time.

Rain began falling again yesterday, loosening the soil and creating small streams of water. Rescuers sank to their knees occasionally, struggling under loads of supplies.

"The area is constantly shifting and every day the landscape changes," said one of the Red Cross team leaders, Hector Reyes.

He urged Barrister to calm down, telling him help is already at the site. But the rescue effort is painfully slow.

"The area is just buried so deep in the mud, it's very difficult to navigate and to put markers once you identify a structure," Reyes said. *AFP*

Taipans pledge new school

By Volt Contreras

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN Leyte—As rescuers pressed their search for life in an elementary school entombed by a landslide, a group of wealthy Chinese-Filipino businessmen pledged to build a new campus for survivors.

Personal delivery of aid

Officials of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, including tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan, flew in to personally deliver aid for residents of Barangay Guinsaugon.

"We just have to be prepared for the next calamity," said Tan, FFCCCI chair emeritus and a media-shy taipan.

FFCCCI president Francis Chua said the group would be donating five school buildings worth P2 million.

5-building campus

At two classrooms per building, a five-building campus can be built in just over three weeks. FFCCCI has donated some 7,000 classrooms nationwide over the last 30 years,' Chua said in an interview.

The group will also release cash assistance worth P1,000 for each of the 410 identified survivors, he added.

Gov. Rosette Lerias told the party the buried school was one of the two "priority areas" of the ongoing search, the other being the barangay hall.

"We will continue until such time we can find somebody alive," she said.

THE PALACE

Rebels bomb Malacañang; 'Marcos stoic'

From page A1

them and found the President seated at his desk, with an aide holding a white bulletproof vest. Bongbong, his son, who was wearing a camouflage uniform, ordered the other security officers to uncock their firearms. They hurriedly left the study to locate the area where the bomb had fallen.

"I was alone with the President briefly. His aide was ordered to gather the rest of the family and lead them down the stairway to the ground floor.

Like a statue

"The President was too calm for comfort. In fact, he looked like a statue, unreal in the midst of the confusion around him. I sat on one of the chairs that was positioned directly in front of him, and we stared at each other.

"Finally, I said, my voice as hysterical as the beating of my heart: 'Mr. President, the Palace has just been bombed! Are you not going to defend yourself? This is the seat of power, and an attack has been launched against it. Will you fight back?'

"I was near panic, and it showed in the manner I spoke to him.

"Very calmly, he answered me: 'Rita, it is easy for you to say I should fight back. I know how you feel. If your neighbor is yellow [the campaign color of the political opposition against Marcos], you can simply walk the other side of the street and ignore him, or build a wall so you won't see him at all. But, those people in [Camps] Crame and Aguinaldo, even if they are fighting me, are still my people. I am President even of those who have become yellow.'

"His reply was unbelievable.

"But for the moment, I kept my silence and thought to myself how often I had seen this man in moments of crisis, and how confidently he had handled them in the past. Always, there was something up his sleeve, a reserved ace, something at the back of his mind that we knew nothing of, and he would spring this surprise to avert the crisis.

"Perhaps now, especially now, there was something else behind him, something I knew nothing of. And hopefully, at the right time, he shall bring this out to straighten things.

"We waited in uncomfortable silence.

Made in the USA

"Bongbong returned with some metal fragments, and, along with the military officers gathered in the room with his father, identified the bomb as neither issued nor used by the Philippine military. It was marked 'Made in the United States of America.'

WHEN THE WORLD WAS YOUNG, the Marcoses were younger and lovelier royals at the Palace.

"From the President's study, we descended to the ground floor rooms used for storing the glasses and chinaware for state functions. The cabinets were covered with white sheets; a desk was set in the center, with a small sofa directly fronting it.

"The President asked for a phone to be installed. Imelda busied herself with her grandchildren and the rest of the family. She moved about quite nervously, carrying large cushions from the wrought-iron garden chairs and lining them on the floor.

"Some officers were on another phone, repeating the directional course of another helicopter that was approaching the Palace.

"Were we expecting more bombs to fall?

"More soldiers came in and passed blue ribbons to the other military men in the Palace. They tied the ribbons to the barrel ends of their rifles—a counter-sign, they said, against hostile forces that were wearing the same uniforms.

"I was given a ribbon in the rush of distribution. I tied it to my ponytail, and while doing so, suddenly wondered what I would possibly look like in case my body was split into fragments by a bomb.

"How would they identify my body parts?

ID cards

"I took my wallet from the hip pocket of my jeans and brought out all the identification cards I had: My media card, driver's license, Malacañang gate pass, San Beda College of Law student ID, and calling card. I put one in each of the pockets of my shirt and jeans.

"It was insane!

"The Palace butlers were distributing McDonald's hamburgers in white plastic containers. I was not hungry.

"There was a phone in the kitchen, and I called my home. As calmly as I could, I told my children that the Palace had just been bombed and that we were taking shelter on the ground floor because there could be more attacks. I told them that I was staying close to the First Family, and that they should not worry about me because I did not intend to die. And that should we escape from here to wherever, I shall contact them immediately. And that they, too, must secure themselves if they do not hear from me in the next few hours.

"They asked about the President. I said he was fine, and so was everyone else. I also asked them to pray and not to stop praying until they hear from me again.

"Imelda kept on asking for me. She sent her aide to fetch me from the kitchen phone. But when I approached her, she had nothing to say.

"We walked back and forth in silence, and then she returned to the next room where her grandchildren were huddled together.

GADI: President was too calm for comfort.

Stoic and immobile

"I found myself once again alone with the President. He was seated in front of the desk, bare except for the telephone and a small brown paper bag.

"I sat on the small sofa across from his desk and put my feet up in a lotus position. My knees were shaking, and that was the only way I could keep my whole body from shaking, too.

"I searched his face for any sign of strain or anxiety, and there was absolutely nothing I could read. He was stoic, almost immobile, exactly as he looked upstairs in his study when the bomb dropped.

"I could hear the President's aide in the distance, coordinating with someone on the phone. Another officer was seated on the floor close to the wall facing an open patio, looking at the sky. He was making motions indicating that another aircraft was approaching.

"I looked back at the President. He has not moved or said a word.

"Suddenly, it dawned on me. Marcos was hurting; a part of him had been severed and he was bleeding.

"He could not shoot at Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos because they were that part of him that was tearing away from his body. He could not hurt them without hurting himself; he could not kill them without killing a part of himself.

"My hair was on edge and my whole being seemed immersed in that moment.

"He sat there in front of me in complete agony. His face was almost translucent, almost radiant with extreme suffering. He was paralyzed beyond belief, transfigured in pure pain, and it poured out of him in an aura so strong I could almost touch it.

"And there was nothing up his sleeve, no ace reserved, no hidden plan, no strategy kept for use in a moment as stupefying as this.

Advance team

"Nothing was behind him now. Only the Pasig River flowed behind the Palace, black with dirt and heady with stench. If he crossed that river, I said to myself, that would be his end."

When Enrile and Ramos began their encampment on Edsa, rebel soldiers who had penetrated the Presidential Security Command at the other side of the river were being captured and arrested on the Palace grounds.

They had pretended to be part of the additional security for the inaugural rites. But since no such orders had been given for the specific composition of the unit, it was found out that the soldiers were the advance team of the rebel assault on the Palace.

They came from the 2nd Infantry Division based in Tanay, Rizal, less than 10 kilometers from the Palace.

Three battalions were expected, but two battalion commanders had backed out.

The rebels were escorted and guided by Capt. Ricardo "Dick" Morales, a senior security officer of Imelda's who was, in fact, being groomed to be an alternate aide de camp.

They were arrested and presented on TV to the public, with Marcos saying, among other things:

"Instead of wiping out this corner of Camp Aguinaldo with hostile fire—because it can be easily wiped out with simple artillery fire without any of our personnel being involved in the fighting—I would prefer to talk about how they shall be treated if they surrender.

"I call upon the minister of national defense and the vice chief of staff to stop this stupidity and surrender so that we may negotiate exactly what should be done with them and their men.

"I have nothing but sadness for those who participated in this conspiracy... We did not know they could reach this height of treason and rebellion.

"I hope that this sadness of mine will impress them with the fact that we have no intention to hurt them."

On the air

It was bizarre how Marcos' words and tone of voice were lacking anger or panic.

Enrile had asked Eugenia D. Apostol to call Jaime Cardinal Sin and US Ambassador Stephen Bosworth.

The cardinal went on the air calling for people to support the rebels. Agapito "Butz" Aquino and several militant groups also called on the people to assemble at Edsa.

Enrile also went on the air, appealing for "people protection," saying the rebels were "going to be bombarded by the forces loyal to Marcos."

The "bombardment" never happened. Not a single shot was fired at the rebel strongholds in Camps Crame and Aguinaldo during any of the days that the rebels and the people at Edsa held their ground.

The crowd at Edsa was allowed to thicken well into the following day, a Sunday.

(To be concluded)

THE MILITARY

Why the cannons did not fire at Edsa

From page A1

planted there. He made the Palace safe for the new President, Mrs. Corazon Aquino.

He was looking forward to some form of recognition from the new government. That it never came was a heartache that he bore until his last days.

Let me start my Edsa story by defining our family's alliances before that event.

'Half-breed loyalists'

The Manalo family may be classified as "half-breed" Loyalist in relation to what transpired at Edsa. My father, known as Bobby to his friends and fellow officers, was known to be a very close friend and confidant of Gen. Fabian Ver, the Armed Forces chief of staff. Ver was the main sponsor at the silver wedding anniversary of my parents in January 1983. It was Ver who promoted my father to chief ordnance of the Camp Aguinaldo headquarters and for a time as concurrent chief of the AFP's Research & Development Center.

Chief ordnance

As chief ordnance, my father was responsible for the quality control, procurement, monitoring and approval for release of all military weapons, ammunition and supplies.

My mother, Osita "Osie" Cerdena-Manalo, who died in May 1985, was a businesswoman who ran a restaurant and catering service in Camp Crame. At the time, my mother's company was the official caterer of Camp Crame and unofficial caterer of Camp Aguinaldo. She was a three-term president of the Philippine Constabulary Officers Women's Club, the association of PC officers' wives. She was also adviser to the GHQ Officers Women's Club, the organization headed by Mrs. Aida Ver.

My mother was a very close friend and confidant of Ms Amelita "Ming" Ramos, the wife of Vice Chief of Staff Fidel V. Ramos. Ming Ramos also stood as a main sponsor to my parents at their silver wedding anniversary.

This is why I call our family "half-breed" Loyalist. Sometimes I think that this must be the reason why my father was never promoted to brigadier general. Despite these odd alliances, I am very proud of my parents because they did an excellent balancing act to maintain neutrality and strong relationships between two factions during that "either-you're-with-us-or-against-us" situation.

CONFIDANT TO GEN. FABIAN VER (right), Col. Carlos B. Manalo, chief ordnance and bomb disposal expert, never signed the document that would release ammo for the howitzer cannons.

Day 1, Feb. 22, 1986

Feb. 22 was a day of grief for us and our relatives. It was the day we buried my brother David who died on Feb. 19. It was the third death in our family since September 1984.

While at the funeral, we heard the news about the press conference at Camp Aguinaldo of the Enrile-Ramos breakaway group. We all rushed home to watch it. My father, just like an officer in command of his company, gave orders to everyone.

"Napoleon, Alexander (my other brother) tell the drivers to bring their families to our house. Take one car and buy food, medicine and whatever else may be needed for the next two weeks. This is not a joking matter, this could mean war."

My father's three drivers cum bodyguards who were PC enlisted men left immediately to fetch their families. My brother and I went "panic-buying" for supplies.

As soon as we returned to our house in Kamias, Quezon City, my father called for a family meeting that included the household help, the drivers and their families. I can still recall the worried tone in his voice which he tried his best to hide by speaking with authority.

He said: "What is happening now could last for some time. I am known in Kamias to be a protégé of Ver. I won't be surprised if some of our neighbors will try to spy on us. So it would be best if we watched their movements. Don't let in anyone we don't know. [The drivers/bodyguards will] take turns in guarding the house, and let the dogs out."

There were around 15 to 20 people in our house. I asked myself, is this for real? It gave us all a feeling of uncertainty and fear. Suddenly, the phone rang. It was from the office of General Ver. After speaking with Ver for about 20 minutes, my father told me that an enlisted man would be coming early the next day to have him sign the release order for ammunition for the howitzer cannons.

I asked my father, "Daddy, are you going to sign? What is going to happen?"

He said: "I have to, otherwise I will be charged with insubordination. And worse, a traitor. I really don't know what the situation is. Fabian said the situation will be under control by tomorrow evening. They will bomb Camp Aguinaldo if Enrile and Ramos do not surrender by tomorrow afternoon. If that happens, many people will die."

Day 2, Feb. 23, 1986

At a little past 3 in the morning, my sister Jojo woke me up to tell me that my father was having a hypertensive attack. I jumped out of bed and called Colonel Manasan, the Surgeon General of the V. Luna Military Hospital who lives five houses away from us. Unfortunately, he was not around.

My sister placed an ice bag on my father's head and nape and gave him his maintenance medicine for his hypertension. After a few minutes, he fell asleep.

At 8 a.m., a military jeep arrived at our gate. It was the enlisted man that Ver had sent with the release order for the ammunition. I told him to wait at the gate.

I went to my father's room. He was asleep. I informed the enlisted man that my father was still asleep and needed to rest because he had a hypertensive attack early that morning. I suggested that he return in the afternoon.

He returned at about 1:30 p.m. I told him to wait while I checked with my father.

Never called Ver

My father said: "Tell him I'm still feeling dizzy. I can't get up because my blood pressure is high. Tell him to come back."

I asked him what time the soldier should return.

My father answered: "I will just call General Ver." (He never called Ver.)

After dinner, the phone rang. It was Maj. Wyrlo Ver, the third son of General Ver who had just been promoted as commanding officer of the Presidential Security Command Light Armored Battalion. They spoke for more than an hour.

After their talk, my father told me: "It looks like there will be fighting tomorrow because the crowd at Edsa is getting bigger. Fabian is insistent that I sign the release order for the ammunition for the howitzers. I am told that General Ver has said that after this is over, I will be promoted to brigadier general."

I asked what else they had talked about.

"Wyrlo said that if the people attack Malacañang and the Presidential Security Command camp, they are ready for them. The people will not be able to get in because they have prepared tanks and booby traps. He also told me where these booby traps are.

"But you know, son, after this is over, I want to retire. Fabian has extended my service for three years. That should be enough. I don't want to stay on. I cannot accept that because of my signature, many people will die. Tomorrow when the sergeant returns, wake me up."

As he walked toward his bedroom, he turned to me and said, "Thank you for dealing with the sergeant."

(To be continued)

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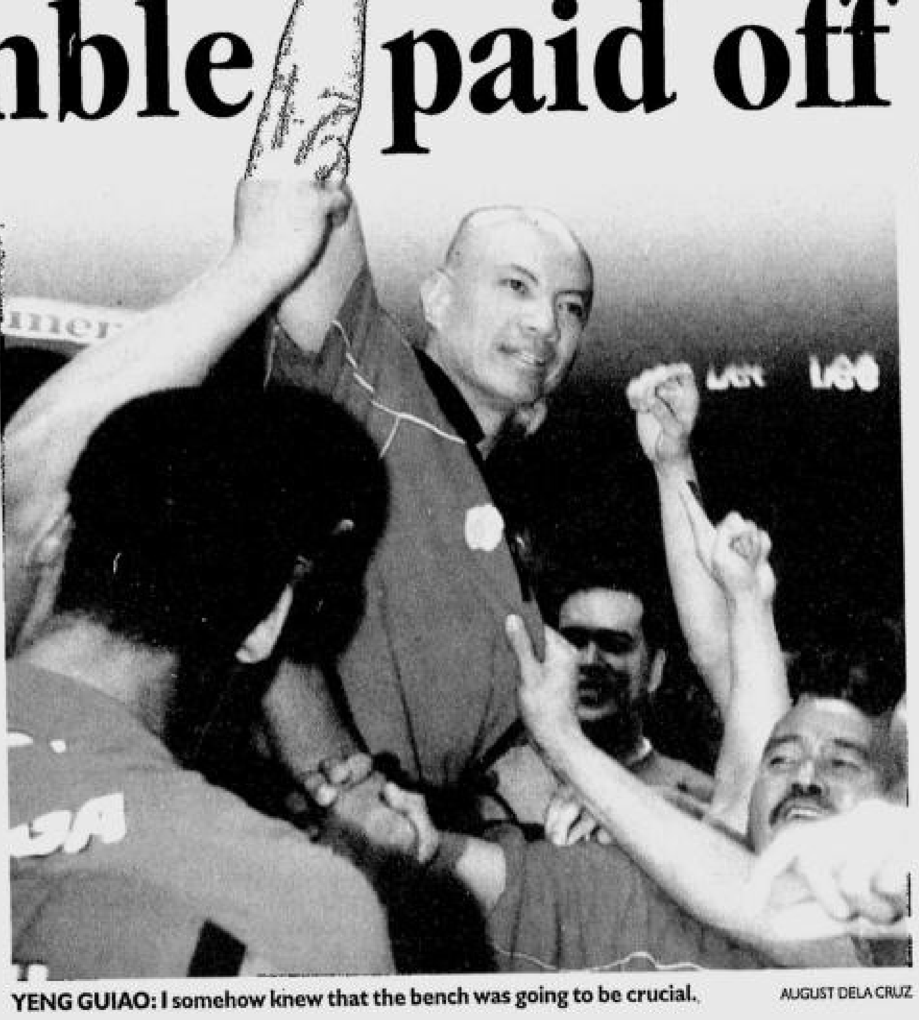
Big gamble paid off for Bulls

By June Navarro

RED BULL MADE A CRUCIAL gamble and placed all its bets on the table hoping this one would turn out right. It paid off.


YENG GUIAO: I somehow knew that the bench was going to be crucial. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

James Penny proved to be the missing piece in Red Bull's championship puzzle after the Bulls clinched the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference crown over Purefoods Sunday night.

"It was a big gamble because [former Red Bull import] Quemont Greer is a great player," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, who captured his third coaching title with the Bulls, and fifth overall.

"But James has great talent, one who makes the others look good. The pieces just fell into place."

The Bulls proved too cunning for the Giants and grabbed the crown in six games, 4-2.

Penny replaced Greer after the elimination round following the Bulls' defeat to Barangay Ginebra for the right to advance into the semifinals outright.

After winning the 2001 and 2002 Commissioner's Cup, the road to another championship stint proved bumpy for the Bulls. They bowed to the Gin Kings in the Fiesta Conference Finals last year.

And then troubles came aplenty. Vonn Harp and Mick Pennisi got entangled in a citizenship mess while Jimwell Torion was suspended on drug charges.

"We were a championship team before the slide, but the management was committed to rebuilding the team," said Guiao, whose five titles were all import-spiced.

"I'm proud of what we have achieved in such a short time," said Red Bull team manager Tony Chua, who masterminded the Bulls' key acquisitions in recent years that netted them Enrico Villanueva, Topex Robinson, Cyrus Baguio and rookie Larry Fonacier.

Junthy Valenzuela, Lordy Tugade, Pennisi and Torion are the only remnants of the original Red Bull squad that entered the league in 2000.

"We wanted depth and balance in building up this team," said Guiao. "We just developed and bred players using our own system."

Statistically, bench scoring was crucial in the series. In all six games, the team which utilized its bench better eventually won.

"I don't know if it's prediction or foresight that enabled us to win this," said Guiao. "But I somehow knew the bench was going to be crucial in this series.

"On any given night, there are guys who can step up. This [sixth] game was proof."

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Telan switches teams with Ferriols

MARK TELAN FOUND HIMSELF under the wings of the Air21 Express after a trade with Talk 'N' Text for John Ferriols was consummated over the weekend.

"He's (Telan) a perfect fit for us," said Air21 coach Bo Perasol, whose priority is to beef up the Express frontline for the PBA All-Filipino Conference starting next month.

Telan showed up at Air21's practice venue in Alabang yesterday morning and Perasol was satisfied with what he saw.

"We will now have more flexibility inside the paint because I can combine Mark, Yancy (De Ocampo) and Ranidel (De Ocampo) and still get good results," said Perasol.

The trade was completed late Sunday afternoon. A reliable source said Telan's acquisition was just one of the initial moves Air21 had made to snag a dominant bigman.

One of six players elevated to the pro ranks by the defunct Tanduay in 1999, the 6-foot-6 Telan is on his seventh season and has career averages of 8.1 points and 4.9 rebounds per game. He has played 314 games with three teams.

Ferriols, who honed his skills while seeing action for the Negros Slashers in the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association, was drafted 12th overall by the Express in 2003.

The 6-foot-4 Davaoeño compiled a career average of 8.7 ppg, 6.0 rpg and 1.0 assist per game in 133 games. Ferriols made 5.2 points per game and 3.8 rebounds in 32 games for the Express.

"It's a win-win situation," said Perasol. "Talk 'N Text could use John (Ferriols) to ease the pressure on Asi (Taulava)."

Meanwhile, Vergel Meneses has been trying his luck with the Phone Pals. Waived by the Bulls before the season, Meneses has joined Talk 'N Text's team-building session in Subic.

June Navarro

Peping, Robert said to be at loggerheads

POC exec board to tackle 'feud'

By Marc Anthony Reyes

COJUANGCO

AVENTAJADO

THE TWO HIGHEST OFFICIALS of the Philippine Olympic Committee are said to be quarreling, and the local Olympic body is doing all it can to help nip the leaders' disagreements in the bud.

Yesterday, the POC executive board called for a meeting tomorrow to discuss, among other things, the reported feud between president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and chair Robert Aventajado.

POC spokesman Joey Romasanta didn't deny that differences have soured the partnership between Cojuangco and Aventajado, but refused to reveal details. He merely said that Aventajado has "personal matters" to attend to in the United States and that his POC duties will have to take the back seat.

"That (feud) will be discussed in the meeting," said Romasanta.

The reported rift between the once-staunch allies came as a shock to the POC family.

Cojuangco and Aventajado jointly weathered storms that buffeted the Olympic body from the time they were elected to the two top posts in late 2004—when Aventajado switched sides from former president Celso Dayrit to Cojuangco—to the country's cramming to host last year's 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Sources said the rift began right after the SEA Games. Aventajado, chief of the broadcast group of the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee, reportedly failed to reach the committee's target in broadcast revenues.

Other sources said the two are also quarreling over the protracted controversy involving the Basketball Association of the Philippines, which had been expelled by the POC but is still recognized by the international basketball federation, Fiba.

Aventajado was appointed committee chief of the task force dealing with the contentious basketball issues.

Aventajado, who heads the national taekwondo body, also reportedly has run-ins with certain national sports association heads close to Cojuangco over his growing role in the POC decision making.

"It is not actually between Cojuangco and Aventajado," said an NSA chief. "It's between Aventajado and several NSA heads close to Cojuangco."

Romasanta hinted that developments will be announced during the board meeting set at noon tomorrow at the Milky Way restaurant along Pasay Road in Makati City.

The POC, according to Romasanta, is also expected to discuss the country's preparation for the Doha Asian Games.

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PAL INTERCLUB

Real work begins for crack Canlubang

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

DAVAO—THE SENIORS CROWN PROVED easy picking. Now the real work begins for Canlubang.

Still smarting from their freakish loss to Manila Southwoods in Bacolod last year, Canlubang vows to redeem itself in the men's Regular tournament beginning tomorrow in hopes of completing its first title double in the 56th Philippine Airlines Interclub golf championships.

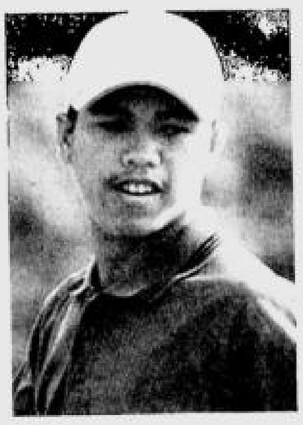
"Now we go for a championship double," said Luigi Yulo after Canlubang wrapped up its first Seniors title Sunday in what turned out to be an anti-climactic finish following the disqualification of Luisita for fielding an an ineligible player.

Luisita is the only team to score a sweep of the two titles since the Senior event for players 55 years and above was included in the PAL tournament in 1988.

The Tarlac-based squad pulled off three championship doubles, the last in 1998. Since then, no team has moved into position to clinch the two crowns at stake, until this year when Canlubang ended Luisita's bid for a record sixth straight Seniors title and 13th overall.

With a leading collection of 12 Regular championships, Canlubang remains a solid title threat, more so with its prospective lineup now boasting upcoming stars who learned the game as caddies at the Apo course, which will co-host the event with Rancho Palos Verdes.

Aside from former national team members Jay Bayron and Boyet Saragoza, Canlubang now boasts reigning national caddies champion Mario Labajo, Junel Ababa, Joseph Labajo and Mario Fernando.


JAY Bayron

BOYET Saragoza

MARIO Labajo

Canlubang lost the championship by four points last year as two disputed rulings, one of which cost then top amateur Juvic Pagunsan two points, proved decisive for Manila Southwoods.

Jeric Hechanova, who masterfully shuffled the Southwoods' stars to produce the close win last year, is now with John Hay, but the team has summoned an old hand, Thirdy Escano, to skipper this year's campaign.

Southwoods also lost a stalwart in Artemio Murakami, now a pro like Pagunsan, but the team has kept its young nucleus and added two able Japanese, Toru Nakajima and Michio Matsumura.

Making it a three-way shootout for the third straight year is 2004 champion Del Monte, which retained most of the key players of its breakthrough year and added Iggy Clavecilla, Martin Misa and Jolan Miñoza, brother of the famous Frankie.

The lineups will be finalized today during a team captains' meeting. Skippers are expected to make sure that all players declared for their 10-man lineups are in the original list submitted during the first team captains' gathering last October.

Lusita was sacked last Sunday because of this rule after it fielded Seve Roxas Chua, who was not on the original roster.

This year's edition has Action Asia, Airbus, Boeing, GE Aviation, GMA 7, Honda Cars Davao, INQ7.net, Joey 92.3, Royal Caribbean International, Philippine Gaming and Amusements Corp., People Asia, Premier Wine and Spirits, Rudy Project, UMBN, and Uraya Land Development Corp. as major sponsors.

ABS-CBN International, Fortune Tobacco and Radio Mindanao Network are the corporate sponsors while 96.3 Wrock, Asia Brewery, Century Park Hotel, Honda Megamotors, SM City Davao and Tanduay Rhum are the minor sponsors.

The things I do for PAL Interclub

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

DAVAO CITY—YOU WAKE UP at 2:30 a.m., hit the road by 3 a.m., and by 3:45 a.m. you are at the centennial airport. You see a long line. You talk to the chief security officer to let you through the VIP entrance. He obliges after you tell him—politely, of course—who you are.

By 4 a.m., you are at the business class check-in counter.

"Do you have check-in item?"

Yes.

"No problem, sir."

In minutes, you have your boarding pass. By 4 a.m., you are at the Mabuhay Lounge. By 4:05, you have your bowl of chicken porridge. Ummm.

Next, you toast a piece of white bread. Cheese. Cream Cheese. Butter. Coffee.

You hear the barker at 4:30. By 4:45, you are seated. Seat belt fastened. Next, you doze off.

Those are the things I do for the PAL Interclub golf championships.

And more.

At the airport here—wow! It's become really international—you are met by Ken Angeles, a friend of many years. He brings me to his yellow-fin tuna restaurant. Fried egg. Sunny side up. *Paksiw na pingaw.* Chicken *adobo*. Fried *longganisa*. Steaming-hot coffee.

Such are the things the PAL Interclub does to me. Luxuries you just don't get at the flick of a finger *a la* Henry Ford or Bill Gates.

Now, how about this?

After that sleep-inducing breakfast from Ken, I find myself being driven to Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club.

Now, who do you think is my driver?

Milton Liu? Ramon Allado? Binggoy Montemayor? Tonyboy Floirendo? Boyet Lim? Hector Mendoza?

All wrong.

Ok, Boy Angeles?

Wrong, again.

Aha, Mayor Duterte.

Uh-oh. Wrong, too.

Gov. Manny Piñol. Yeah, Governor Piñol was my driver.

Boy, he can still drive.

As our Isuzu Alterra snaked its way to the mountain-top golf course near the banana plantation of Cito Lorenzo, my cell rang.

"Hello, Mr. Chairman, what can I do for you?"

"Where are you, buddy?"

"Am on board a brand new, no-plate-yet Alterra, Mr. Chairman."

"Where are you headed to?"

"Palos Verdes."

And the Chairman said, "OK, am here already, all set to tee off."

And who is this Mr. Chairman I was talking to?

Who else but Domeng Duerme, PAL's vice president for the Visayas and Mindanao.

"Guess who's behind the wheel of the Alterra I'm on board now?"

No idea, Mr. Chairman.

"Your own nephew, who else?"

Hearing that, the PAL Interclub chair, laughed heartily.

Albert Garcia, the Manila Times chief photographer, said: "Tell him to make a guess."

"Aha, I know him," he said. "He's Govenor Piñol, your dear buddy, I know. Thank God, you are in good hands."

Ah, the things that I get to experience covering the PAL Interclub golf tournament.

Now, listen. The Chairman and I didn't get to close a friendly bet with Jake Ayson, a tradition that's been with us for years now.

"We'll do it tomorrow," said the chairman, who played in the flight of Bong Cruz, another esteemed friend from PAL.

Before the day ended, and after a sumptuous late, late lunch of *lechon* and prawns, the chairman says: "OK, the following will hit the ceremonial shots tomorrow to kick off the 59th PAL Men's Regular—Mayor Duterte, Vice Mayor Luis Bonguyan, PSC commissioner Binggoy Montemayor, congressman Floirendo and, of course, my great nephew, Governor Piñol."

Governor Piñol has only fond memories of his uncle, Domeng Duerme.

"We were playmates since we were kids," Governor Piñol said of Duerme. "We would build balls out of mud from the river banks of M'lang, North Cotabato, while we set off our carabao to graze in the grass. Ah, those were the days."

Let me end this piece, rushed at the lobby of Apo View with lawyer Neil Dalumpines providing me music from his piano, by saying I played my last five holes at Palos Verdes without a putter.

I broke it.

Using my three-iron in the last five holes—I "three-ironed" three of the last five holes, what can you expect?— I lost some money to Jake.

But what the heck.

It was one day I'd remember in a day in the life of me.

DepED
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
5th Floor., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 636-65-43; Telefax No. 636-65-42, 633-93-43
Website: http://www/DepED.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education Central Office through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for :

PACKAGE NO.	DIVISION	SCHOOL	PROJECT	Approved Budget for the Contract
1	Rizal	Rosario Ocampo Elementary School San Jose Elementary School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building Construction of Two (2) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building	10,458,180.00
2	Rizal	Lipat-Lipat Elementary School Mambog Elementary School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building	11,514,000.00
3	Rizal	Tanay National High School Gen Liceno Geronimo Natl. High School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building Construction of Three (3) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building	10,079,718.85
4	Antipolo City	Sapinit Elementary School Inuman Elementary School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building Construction of Two (2) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building	8,685,000.00
5	Quezon City	Placido del Mundo Elementary School San Gabriel Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	13,901,790.00
6	Quezon City	Manuel L. Quezon Elementary School Ismael Mathay Sr. High School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	12,545,000.00
7	Quezon City	Novaliches High School San Francisco High School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	12,545,164.05
8	Quezon City	Carlos Albert High School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	6,755,000.00
9	Caloocan City	Gabriela Silang Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Fifteen (15) Classroom School Building	13,027,500.00
10	Caloocan City	Deparo Elementary School Camarin Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building Phase II-Completion of Three (3) Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	8,685,000.00
11	Marikina City	Sto. Niño Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Fifteen (15) Classroom School Building	6,948,000.00
12	Parañaque City	Parañaque Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	6,755,000.00
13	Las Piñas City	Pamplona Central Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Fifteen (15) Classroom School Building	10,900,900.55
14	Malabon Navotas	Tinajeros National High School Potrero High School	Partial Construction of Three (3) Storey Fifteen (15) Classroom School Building Partial Construction of Three (3) Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	13,052,097.85
15	Muntinlupa City	Muntinlupa Elementary School	Phase II - Completion of construction of 3 Storey School Building	6,595,977.65

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule	Location
Receipt from Prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms	February 13, 2006 - February 20, 2006	BAC Secretariat, 5th Flr.,Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	February 14, 2006 - February 24, 2006	
Eligibility Screening	February 27, 2006 - March 2, 2006	
Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	March 6, 2006	
Issuance of Bidding Documents	March 6 to April 5, 2006	
Pre-Bid Conference	March 20, 2006, 10:00 A.M.	Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Receipt and Opening of Bids (Package 1 to 8)	April 5, 2006, 10:00 A.M.	
Receipt and Opening of Bids (Package 9 to 15)	April 6, 2006, 10:00 A.M.	

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders the Eligibility Forms at BAC Secretariat Office, 5th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC Secretariat at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue electronic copy (CD) of Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 3,500.00** per package to the DepED Cashier. Plans and Bill of Quantities Forms will be issued in hard copies.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Package shall be rejected. Likewise, late bids shall be rejected.

The Department of Education assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MACUR D. MAROHOMBSAR**
BAC Vice Chairperson

(PDI – February 21, 2006)

DAR
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
CAMARINES NORTE PROVINCIAL OFFICE

NOTICE OF COVERAGE

Pursuant to Section 7 of Republic Act No. 6657, the following landowners are hereby notified that their properties hereunder listed, to wit:

	Landowner	Location	Area (Has.)	Title No.
1	Zosimo Lerum	Kagtalaba, Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte	7 1814	T-164904
2.	Silvena Apordo	Kagtalaba, Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte	8 5473	T-72275
3	Edgardo M. Villaver	Don Tomas, Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte	9 5780	O-17581
4	Sps. Conrado and Norma Villaver	Don Tomas, Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte	9 5342	O-17582
5.	Arnulfo M. Villaver	Don Tomas, Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte	12 5515	O-17584
6.	Victoria S. Uy	Patag Ibaba, Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte	7 8451	T-178469
7.	Ricardo M. Gloria	San Pedro, Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte	13 5685	P-17750
8.	Dominador Nando	Tacad, Basud, Camarines Norte	7.2502	P-2412
9.	Sofia Elep Soriano	Langa, Basud, Camarines Norte	5 9948	T-13897
10.	Sofia Elep Soriano	Langa, Basud, Camarines Norte	3 9841	T-13960
11.	William Martinez	Mocong, Basud, Camarines Norte	8.7282	P-7424
12.	Thomas Q. Choy	Pagsangahan, Basud, Camarines Norte	7 4705	P-756
13.	Herminio Deraz	Bany, Labo, Camarines Norte	3 0127	T-11419
14	Sonia L. Pimentel, Wilfredo Pimentel & Lamberto Pimentel	Mabilo I, Labo, Camarines Norte	20 8929	T-24248
15.	-do-	Mabilo I, Labo, Camarines Norte	5 6399	T-24249
16.	-do-	Mabilo I, Labo, Camarines Norte	6 0597	T-24250
17.	-do-	Mabilo I, Labo, Camarines Norte	6 6887	T-24251
18.	Epifania dela Peña	Submakin, Labo, Camarines Norte	22 0781	P-5260
19.	Racquel Rafer	Sta. Cruz, Labo, Camarines Norte	17 1518	T-7014
20.	Florencia Balce Flores	Napilihan, Vinzons, Camarines Norte	7.0144	P-5206
21	Florencia Balce Flores	Malango, Vinzons, Camarines Norte	8.8100	P-10548
22.	Sps. Pedro & Josela Peñalosa	Mancayo, Vinzons, Camarines Norte	3 3072	P-4983
23.	Sps. Pedro & Josela Peñalosa	Napilihan, Vinzons, Camarines Norte	4 2541	P-4926
24.	Florentino Obusan	Napilihan, Vinzons, Camarines Norte	9 4757	P-4077
25.	Amado Pajarillo	Mancayo, Vinzons, Camarines Norte	2 1632	P-4891
26.	Amado Pajarillo	Napilihan, Vinzons, Camarines Norte	4 0490	P-8284
27.	Agustina Pajarillo	Napilihan, Vinzons, Camarines Norte	4 6015	P-5808
28	Simeon Peñalosa	Cagbalogo, Vinzons, Camarines Norte	8 2000	P-7436
29.	Rosario Sunga	Malango, Vinzons, Camarines Norte	8 3320	Lot 3106-A
30.	Francisco Inocalla	Manlukugan, Vinzons, Camarines Norte	8 2122	P-7769
31	Dominador Nando	Calangcawan Sur, Vinzons, Camarines Norte	6 5671	P-4313
32	Januaria Obusan	Napilihan, Vinzons, Camarines Norte	6 7561	P-4098
33.	Jose Ferrer	Napilihan, Vinzons, Camarines Norte	11 7516	P-5769
34	Lourdes Firmanes	Plandel, Basud, Camarines Norte	12 4667	P-2640
35	Miguel Gadil	Plandel, Basud, Camarines Norte	12 0504	P-2678
36	George Vega	Plandel, Basud, Camarines Norte	12 9312	P-2642
37.	Jose Paclo	Angas, Basud, Camarines Norte	20 2310	P-343
38	Germoni Tondo	Plandel, Basud, Camarines Norte	23 8264	P-4299
39	Marcelino Aspo	Mocong, Basud, Camarines Norte	11 2215	P-603
40	Laceda dela Cruz, et. al.	Gaboc, Mercedes, Camarines Norte	10 9672	T-1390
41.	Lourdes Diez	Pambuhan, Mercedes, Camarines Norte	2 6802	Lot-539
42.	Sylvia, Joyce & Catherine dela Cruz	Gaboc, Mercedes, Camarines Norte	13.1116	Lot-919

are now covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Under DAR Administrative Order No. 2, Series of 2005, the right to choose the area to be retained must be exercised within sixty (60) days from the date of Publication of the Notice of Coverage. Failure to exercise this right of retention within the prescribed period shall be considered as a waiver of the right/privilege to apply for exemption/exclusion or retention, nominate children as beneficiaries or submit evidence determining just compensation.

Under Executive Order No. 405, we shall request the Land Bank of the Philippines to determine the reasonable Land Value of the said properties being acquired pursuant to Section 17, of Republic Act 6657.

February 15, 2006.

(Sgd.) **HUBERTO L. VILLARAZA, CESO V**
PARO II

(PDI–Feb 21, 2006)

Crack NCR booters start 'three-peat' bid vs Baguio

GAMES TODAY
(Barotac Nuevo pitch)
8:30 a.m.—NCR vs. Baguio
Sta. Barbara field
8:30 a.m.—North Cotabato vs. Zamboanga
CPU field
8:30 a.m.—Negros Occidental vs. Masbate
La Paz turf
2:30 p.m.—Iloilo vs. Iligan

By Cedelf P. Tupas
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—ON PAPER, NATIONAL CAPITAL Region's roster appears to be a shoo-in for the finals.

It's worth will be tested today when the NCR squad begins its quest for a third straight national crown against Baguio in the PFF-National Men's Open Football Championships at the Barotac Nuevo field here.

After the draw placed NCR in a bracket alongside powerhouse Iloilo, the Big City booters hope to get the best out of Philippine team standouts Ali Borromeo, Emelio Caligdong and Ian Araneta as they gun for a "three-peat."

Tiger Cup veterans Borromeo and Caligdong boosted their stock when they led the RP team to a 4-2 conquest of Cambodia, breaking a 10-year losing spell in the Southeast Asian Games.

"We have a fighting team," NCRFA secretary general Jojo Rodriguez told the INQUIRER.

Philippine Army team coach Greg Brilliantes will call the shots for NCR, which will also have Selu Lozano and Luis Brilliantes, as well as Negros-born players Gil Villanueva, Philip Caballero and Edward Sacapaño in its fold.

The NCR-Baguio tussle is set at 8:30 a.m., simultaneous with the Negros Occidental-Masbate Group A match at the CPU field and the North Cotabato-Zamboanga tiff in another group match at the Sta. Barbara turf.

Host Iloilo, arguably the biggest stumbling block to the Big City booters' bid, also opens its campaign against Iligan at 2:30 p.m., shortly after the opening ceremonies at the La Paz field.

Iloilo is expected to bank on Ruben Doctora Jr., veterans Richmond Braga, SEAG campaigner Bervic Italia, Jezurel Tonog and Ardesel Juarez, while Negros will be powered by RP Under-23 team right winger Arnie Pasinabo, ex-national player Ali Rojas and Ziggy Tonog.

The event is organized by the Iloilo Football Association (IFA) in cooperation with Gov. Neil Tupas, Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Trenas, IFA president Ramsay Padernal, and general secretary Joseph Gensaya. Sponsors include Red Ribbon Bakeshop, 2Go and Petron.

Lady Falcons clinch nat'l students crown

ADAMSON UNIVERSITY ROUTED ST. Louis of Baguio, 73-29, yesterday to capture the women's division title in the National Students Basketball Championships at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Four Lady Falcons combined for 51 points as they completed a sweep of the division that also included UAAP champion Ateneo de Manila University and AMA Computer University, which were still playing for second place at press time.

"We're very fortunate this time unlike in our recent campaign in the UAAP," said Adamson coach Emelia Vega. "The team is getting stronger and the players are responding well to our adjustments."

The Lady Falcons finished runner-up to Ateneo in the UAAP.

The University of Visayas Lancers were the morning sensation as they clipped Manuel L. Quezon University, 73-64, for a third straight victory that set them up for a vital outing with UAAP kingpin Far Eastern University as the top team in group B.

"Everybody has to play hard because we are not very complete as a team," said Elmer Cabahug, an ex-PBA sweet shooter who coaches UV along with fellow former pro and rifleman Al Solis.

UV is missing the services of Joseph Quinahan, who's nursing a leg injury.

Not to be outdone, the Tamaraws, still saving UAAP MVP Arwind Santos for last, toyed with Universidad de Zamboanga, 91-61, for their second victory in as many days in the event backed by San Miguel Corp., Petron and Aktivade.

NBN airs the highlights of the games from 3 to 4 p.m.

Wild Card entry and NCAA runner-up Philippine Christian University matched steps with Group A favorite and NCAA champion Letran following a 95-38 rout of winless Tarlac State University, 95-38, at the Emilio Aguinaldo Gym where the high school contests are being played.

PCU and Letran stay undefeated in the five-team group but San Sebastian College-Recoletos of Cavite, which carries a 2-1 slate following a 91-64 triumph over Cordillera College, still cradles a shot at one of two crossover semifinals seats.

PCU's Baby Dolphins dumped Don Bosco Tarlac, 124-34, for win number three in group A even as UAAP champion La Salle Zobel dumped West Negros College, 99-60, for a 2-1 card.

In the other group, San Beda College secured a semifinals slot after besting University of Visayas, 78-66, and will wait for another confrontation with NCAA tormentor and titlist San Sebastian College, which is unbeaten in two games.

In a no-bearing match, St. Joseph of Zamboanga edged University of Perpetual Help-Laguna, 82-78, also in Group B.

CHAMP AND SON: Rory Sabbatini of South Africa hugs his son Harley, 2, after winning the Nissan Open golf tournament, Sunday, at Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles.
AP

SPORTSWATCH

Min-Vis cage league opens Saturday

THE MINDANAO VISAYAS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (MVBA) WILL launch its inaugural season this Saturday with 11 teams seeing action at the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology gym. A brainchild of basketball's Visayan prime movers Coach Yayoy Alcoseba and Michel Lhuillier, the league will have boxing hero Manny Pacquiao as special guest during the opening ceremonies. Pacquiao's PacMan-General Santos squad is one of the five teams bracketed in the Mindanao Division. It will face Montaña Pawnshop-Davao of Armando Quibod in the opening game at 5:30 p.m. Host Iligan City of Mayor Lawrence Cruz battles Misamis Oriental of MVBA chair Gov. Oscar S. Moreno in the main game at 7:30 p.m. The Cagayan de Oro Rapids of Mayor Vicente Emano completes the Mindanao cast.

Rodrigo TKO's Doliguez in Tagaytay

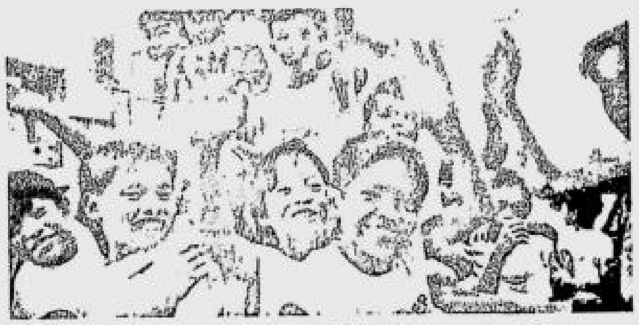
FORMER PHILIPPINE FLYWEIGHT CHAMPION EDGAR RODRIGO OVERcame a second-round knockdown to score a technical knockout victory over 11th-ranked WBO junior bantamweight Roy Doliguez in the eighth round of their scheduled 10-rounder in the "Bakbakan sa Tagaytay" in Tagaytay City recently. The fight was too close to call until Rodrigo, who floored Doliguez in the third round, caught Doliguez with a right straight to the jaw and sent him to the canvas again. Referee E. Nobleza eventually stopped the fight. In the other main event of the card arranged by Jun Sarreal and held in coordination with Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino, PBF junior welter champ Arnel Tinampay kept his title via unanimous decision win over Jury Noda.

NCA 7-cocker resumes tomorrow

MORE THAN 60 QUALITY FIGHTS FEATURING THE "PERSONAL CHOICES" of some of the country's most famous sportsmen were showcased in the National Cockers Association's 7-cock derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City yesterday. The derby resumes tomorrow. Leading the participants are the tandem of Danding Cojuangco and Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, Chavit Singson, Mike and Art Atayde and their American partner OW Lanier, and Rudy Albano, among others. The NCA, the premier and most prestigious organization of gamefowl sportsmen in the country, said that the forthcoming fights will be conducted in the best Filipino tradition of honesty, integrity, fairness and transparency. The membership of the NCA comprises the virtual Who's Who in Philippine cockfighting.

Araneta derby slates 120 fights

BREEDERS BELONGING TO THE LUZON-BASED GAMECOCK BREEDERS Association (LBGBA) clash in the Philippine Heritage Cup 2005 5-cock derby today and on Thursday at the Araneta Coliseum. Due to the big number of fights in the derby sponsored by Gran Matador and B-Meg Derby Ace, each participant will be required to field five cocks either today or Thursday. The first of more than 120 fights starts at 11 a.m. Seeing action are entries from different breeders groups such as Batangas Breeders Club, Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association and the Gamefowl Breeders Association of Tarlac. Each derby day dangles a cash pot of P600,000 for an entry fee of P10,000.



YOUNGSTERS' HOUR: Mainstays Maimpis Elementary School-Pampanga 12-under team beam with youthful energy as they wait for the game in the Cherifer Tangkad Sagad Basketball Tournament at the People's Gym in San Fernando City recently. The Maimpis dribblers are among the hundreds of public school students benefiting from the basketball program also supported by Adidas.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—My Little Pet (2), Magic Ewan Ko (3), Mint Kirt (7), Society Climber (4)
Race 2—Qrt/Tri)—Magiliw (7), El Cid (10), Princess Indy (9), Mina Sa Isla (6)
Race 3—(Penta/Tri)—Playmaker (9), Hard to Find/Humble Guest (2), High Spirit (12), Suplada/Panibugho (8), Vantage (6)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Gallant Warrior (2), Nothing To Declare (1), Cool Reception (2), Worth Ur While (9)
Race 5—(Penta/Tri)—Sir Guguy (11), Reporter (2), La Signorina (8), Spinning Bullet (7), At All Cost (3)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Paminsanminsan (6), Irish Connection (5), Sharp Cookie (10), Ali Ali Ali (8)
Race 7—(Penta/Tri)—Magic Dancer (9), Piroutte (7), D'Joy of the Wild (1), Look of Love (2), Silver Cho Cho (12)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Angel Eyes (1), Blitzkreig (3), My Sheikh (13), Naughty (10), He's A Balong (11), En Carta (4)

IN THE HUNT: Juvic Pagunsan ROMY HOMILLADA

Juvic returns to scene of SEA Games victory

FRESHMAN PRO JUVIC PAGUNSAN REVISITS the scene of perhaps his biggest victory as an amateur when he sees action in the P4 million The Country Club Invitational beginning Thursday at The Country Club course in Canlubang, Laguna.

Although he has already debuted as a pro in the recent Pakistan Open, where he finished in joint 36th and won $1,400, this marks the first time that Pagunsan will play for cash at home.

The 27-year-old shotmaker scored his last victory as an amateur in the Southeast Asian Games last December over the tough par-70 layout.

Pagunsan closed out with a bogey-free, eagle-spiked seven-under-par 65 to win by a huge 12 shots over Thailand's Waisayakul Ekalak in individual play and power the RP squad to a 17-shot win over Singapore in team play.

He finished with 13-under 267, breaking par in all four rounds.

But against the likes of defending champion Jerome Delariarte, former titlists Cassius Casas and Tony Lascuña, and the rest of the elite 32-player field, Pagunsan is expected to encounter stiff resistance in his hunt for the top P1.2 million winner's purse staked in the P4.2 million invitational.

"I used to play for flag and country, but now I will be playing for pride and money," said Pagunsan in Filipino. "But it will be tough [to win this time] because the field is strong."

Organizers of the event, put up by Enrique K. Razon Jr. three years ago to honor the memory of his father, Don Pocholo, actually seeded the top 21 finishers of last year's tournament.

The rest of the field were tapped to play by sponsors.

The 32-player cast includes Cesar Ababa, Edgar Ababa, Rey Alit, Erwin Arcillas, Eddie Bagtas, Ramil Bisera, Roger Cabajar, Dan Cruz, Rodolfo Cuello, Rodrigo Cuello, Ricky Marcelo; Peter Miñoza, Ronald Pactolerin, Juanito Pagunsan, Elmer Salvador, Carito Villaroman, Artemio Murakami, Marlon Dizon, Rey Pagunsan, Benjie Magada, Richard Sinfuego and Ruben Sasutil.

Blazers thwart Generals; Warriors score

STANDINGS
Men's basketball (as of Feb. 17)—FEU 5-3; San Beda 4-1; Ateneo 3-2; La Salle 3-2; UE 3-2; EAC 2-4; UST 1-2; St. Benilde 2-3; Lyceum 0-4.
Women's basketball—FEU 6-0; Ateneo 4-1; La Salle 3-1; Lyceum 2-3; UST 1-1; St. Benilde 1-3; UE 1-4; EAC 1-5.

THE COLLEGE OF ST. BENILDE Blazers bucked a hostile crowd to turn back Emilio Aguinaldo College Generals at the EAC gym, 57-54, even as the University of the East Warriors blasted powerhouse Far Eastern U Tamaraws, 88-61, at home in the men's basketball tournament of the Home and Away Invitational League over the weekend.

St. Benilde gunner Martin Urra led the Blazers with 23 points in foiling the Generals, who led 28-24 at the half but were stymied by the victors' tough defense in the second.

Christopher Layug chipped in eight points while Archie David and Christian Cabatu added seven apiece, as the Blazers improved to 2-3.

Karlo Marcos-Castillo topscored with 17 points for the Generals, who dropped to 2-4.

The Warriors improved to 3-2 in a three-way logjam for third place with the La Salle Archers and the Ateneo Eagles. The Tamaraws absorbed their third loss in eight games.

Far Eastern, however, still leads the field in the league organized by Waffle Marketing Inc. and sponsored by Adidas and Sunbolt.

In women's play, Zendy Banawa led all scorers as the Lady Blazers also won against the Lady Generals (1-5), 61-47, for their first win in four games.

In the other women's game, the Lady Tamaraws beat the Lady Warriors, 69-49.

Torres-Uy pair dominates Eagle Ridge scramble

KARLYN KHEY TORRES AND RIZALINA UY combined for a net 12-under-par 60 in scramble play to top the ladies division of members monthly tournament of the giant Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite, recently.

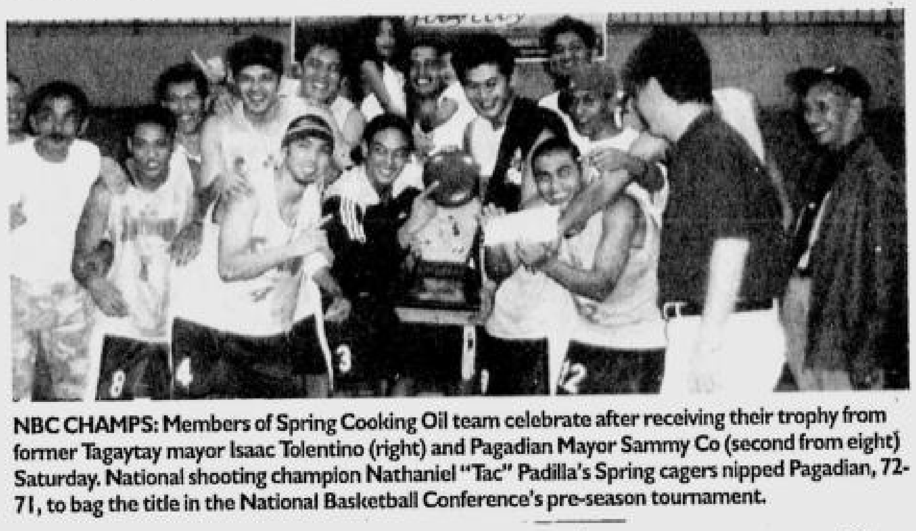
Scoring a gross of 83 at the Faldo course, Torres and Uy won by six shots over the Korean tandem of Hee Seo-Seo Eun Yang in the 18-hole tournament supported by Sun Cellular.

The seniors plum went to Rosendo Cruz and Uriel Halum whose 61 turned back the pair of Gerry Collado-Renato Jamlang by a stroke.

Park Seong Pyo-Kim Young Sook topped Division I, Koo Jae Min-Park Haye Jin took Division II, while Renato Kapauan-Stephen Albano prevailed in Division III.

Park-Kim's combined 62 was a shot better than the score of Rogelio Muyot-Dae Yang Hong.

Koo-Park (58) finished three shots ahead of Joon Kang-Kyung Ae Roh, while Kapauan-Albano turned in the tourney's lowest net of 56 to win by two over Gregorio Poblador-Joel Belardo.



NBC CHAMPS: Members of Spring Cooking Oil team celebrate after receiving their trophy from former Tagaytay mayor Isaac Tolentino (right) and Pagadian Mayor Sammy Co (second from eight) Saturday. National shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Spring cagers nipped Pagadian, 72-71, to bag the title in the National Basketball Conference's pre-season tournament.

20 bets enter ₱1M poker main tilt

TWENTY SATELLITE TOURNAMENT WINNERS have qualified for the main event of the Philippine Poker Tour (PPT) Million-Peso Hold'em Philippine-Championship slated April 8 and 9 at the Airport Casino-Filipino in Parañaque. The first national poker champion will be determined after the finals of the non-wager series. Apart from the P1 million worth of prizes, the grand finals winner will bring home a champion's bracelet, according to organizing committee chair Rey Gamboa. The 20 satellite winners: Anthony Gabitan, recently crowned Poker King Challenge champion; Mike Tyler, Pico Ching, Cuy-cuy Makabenta, Bobby Atienza, Jacson Feng, Dr. Butch Javier, Marlon Chavez, Marvin Cu, Neil Arce, Dennis Gambon, Aris Alipon, Vincent Ong. Bitoy, Ryan Paolo Mencias, Tony Uson, Jonathan Francisco, Ace Stehmeier, Ernesto Laman and July Bueta. For inquiries, call the PPT secretariat at 817-9092 or 812-0153.

Orcollo rules qualifier, gets IPT tour card

LOS ANGELES—PHILIPPINE "MONEY GAME King" Dennis Orcollo introduced himself to US shores in spectacular fashion, nailing an International Pool Tour card in his first try Sunday.

The 27-year-old Orcollo topped the winner's bracket (B) and then overcame a 1-6 deficit to beat former US Open champion Oliver Ortmann, 10-6, in the final match held at the Hard Times Billiards here at Bellfower.

Ortmann capitalized on two errors by Orcollo to post a 3-1 edge. He then broke and ran the next three racks but came up dry on the following break.

The momentum then swung the opposite direction. Orcollo studied every shot and calmly executed a table-length kick shot that sent the ball into the corner pocket. Ortmann didn't win another game as Orcollo reached the hill by taking the next eight games. Orcollo then broke and ran the final rack.

"With this win I can now express my gratitude to my manager (Perry Mariano) who is celebrating his birthday this 20th of February and my supporters Col. Jete Villacorte and Maj. Pete Laraya," said Orcollo, a gold medalist in the 23rd SEA Games.

Orcollo's victory netted him an IPT card needed to compete in the 2006 season. The IPT is hosting six major tournaments for the year with over $8 million in prize money at stake.

"He (Orcollo) feels very, very happy," Mariano said after receiving a call from Orcollo yesterday morning. "Birthday gift *daw niya sa akin ang kanyang panalo*. He can't believe that he's now holding his IPT card.

"He believes that the IPT will be his passport to fame. Imagine the hardships that Dennis went through to go to the US. He applied for visa thrice and was denied twice. He wanted to be at the very first tournament and luckily he was given a visa and won the event," Mariano added. "I've been supporting him even in his early years because I know that he'd go places."

En route to the finals, Orcollo beat Steve Lingelbach (10-1), M. Hybler (10-4), Michael Schmidt (10-5) and Richard Broumpton (10-3).

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SHAQUILLE O'Neal hangs on the rim after a dunk. REUTERS

King James rules as East nips West

HOUSTON—A PUSH FROM THE DETROIT PIStons, an MVP performance by LeBron James and a putback by Dwyane Wade decided an NBA All-Star game that went down to the final seconds.

Trailing by 21 points, the East rallied for a 122-120 victory Sunday night behind King James and the Pistons' Fab Four.

With the score tied, Allen Iverson was off-target on a jumper, but Wade darted into the lane for the rebound and the go-ahead basket with 16 seconds left.

Still, the East didn't wrap it up until hometown hero Tracy McGrady of the Houston Rockets missed a jumper with the clock ticking down. Kobe Bryant then had the ball slip out of his hands for a turnover, and it hardly mattered that Vince Carter missed a breakaway dunk on the other end just before the buzzer.

McGrady led all players with 36 points. The 21-year-old James, in his second midseason showcase, scored 29 and became the youngest All-Star MVP.

"It was more impressive that we came from, at one point, 21 points down and willed ourselves to a win," James said.

Detroit teammates Chauncey Billups, Rasheed Wallace, Ben Wallace and Richard Hamilton, all selected as reserves from the team with the league's best record, came off the bench together to help the East rally.

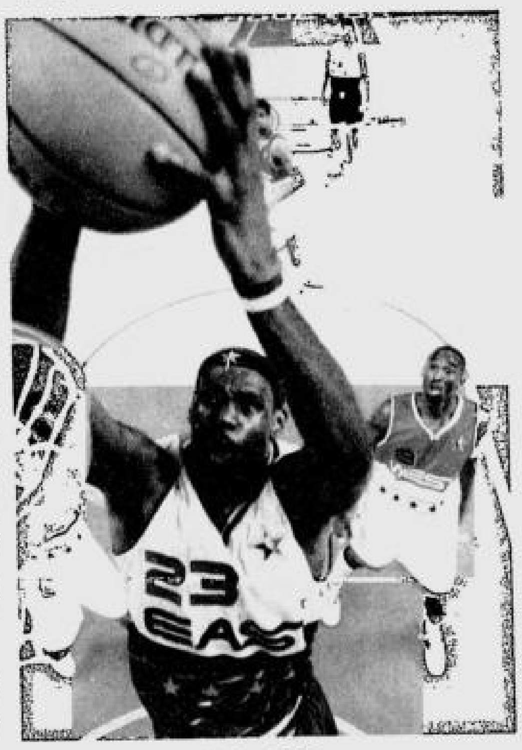
"I talked to the guys at halftime and basically said that we were not as competitive," said East coach Flip Saunders of the Pistons.

The West took a 74-53 lead 2 minutes into the third quarter. But the East responded with a 28-13 run over the next 6 minutes as James scored 13 points.

The East grabbed a 117-107 lead with 3:29 to go. The West made it 120-all on Bryant's fadeaway jumper with 32 seconds remaining.

That set up the final sequence. After McGrady missed, Bryant lost the ball and Rasheed Wallace grabbed it with 5 seconds left.

As is often the case, the All-Star game had plenty of subplots. Ex-Los Angeles Lakers teammates Shaquille O'Neal and Bryant, no longer feuding, shook hands before tipoff and laughed when O'Neal fouled Bryant in the first quarter. The 7-foot-1 O'Neal, now with Miami, took a spin as the East's point guard for one possession. *AP*



JAMES: Youngest All-Star MVP ever. AP

McEnroe gets back winning feeling at 47

SAN JOSE—JOHN MCENROE CAPPED his comeback to the ATP Tour with a surprise doubles victory in the SAP Open final on Sunday, the veteran partnering Swede Jonas Bjorkman to a 7-6, 4-6, 10-7 win over Paul Goldstein and Jim Thomas.

Appearing in his first ATP tournament since 1994, the 47-year-old American displayed plenty of the trademark deft touches that once made him the number one player in the world.

"I didn't know what was going to happen, but I felt good that first day, so I thought we had a chance," McEnroe told reporters after the contest.

"The key to success is working together with your partner and picking a good partner and I did that. We pumped each other up.

"They beat the first and third seeds and we beat the second and fourth, so we knew it was coming down to the end.

"Not surprisingly it went to the final tiebreak, but the right team won."

McEnroe's 78th doubles title came 14 seasons after his last, won with brother Patrick at the Paris Indoors in November 1992.

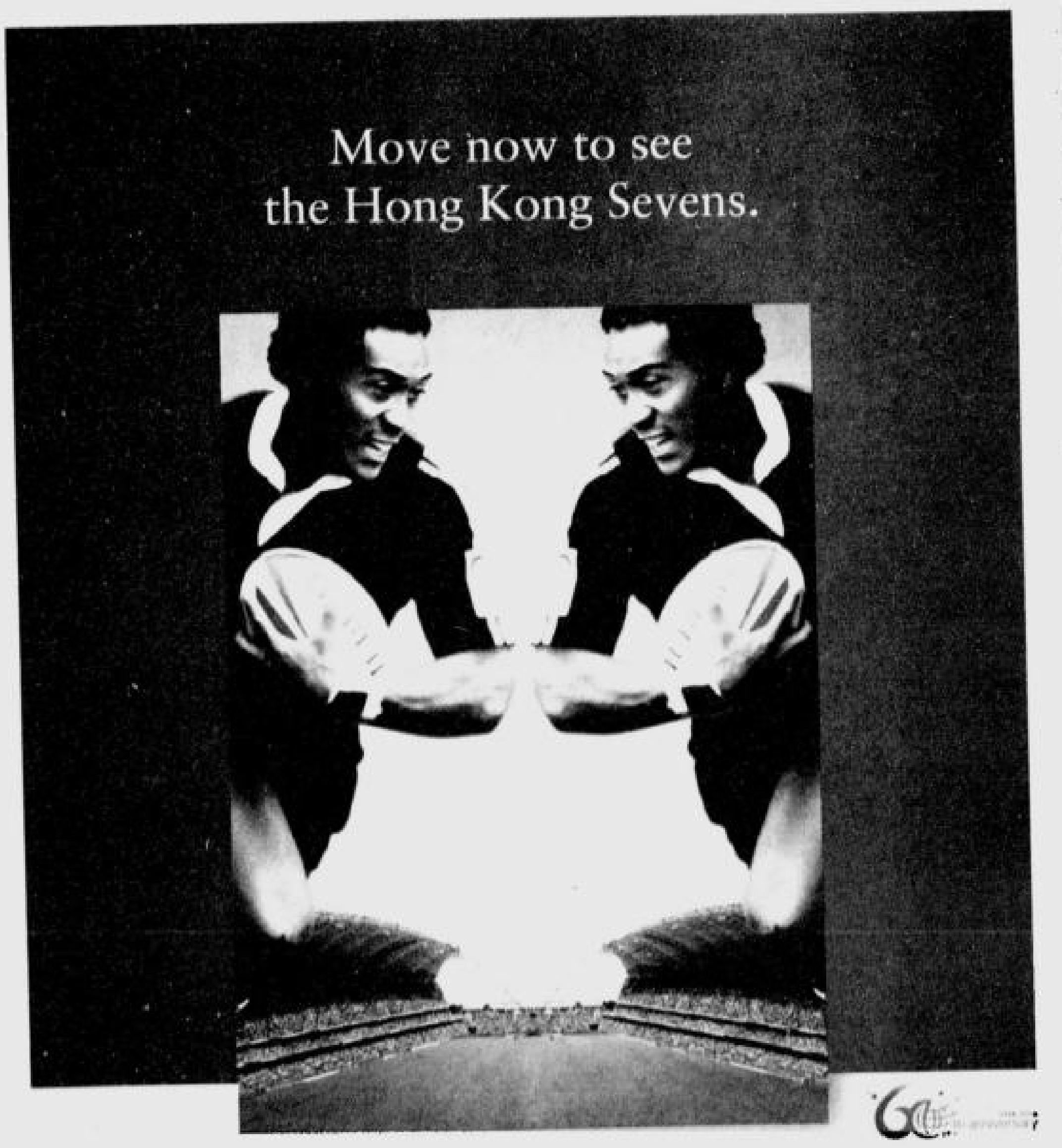
While McEnroe sports a full head of grey hair and has slowed his pace around the court, the seven-times grand slam champion stood firm against the weight of his opponent's heavy shots.

Although he has a busy schedule of television broadcasting and senior events this year, McEnroe did not rule out playing another ATP tournament.

"Maybe I can find some of the younger American guys to play with," he said.

"I've got to enjoy this for a little bit, so I'm going to take a few months off and then go back to where I belong on the seniors tour and then enjoy this (win) and let them think about (this win) for a little and we'll see what develops." *Reuters*

MCENROE last won the doubles in 1992.



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Doping scandal rocks Games; Italy cops gold

TURIN, ITALY—THE COACH AT THE CENTER OF a doping scandal rocking the Turin Winter Games slammed his car into an Austrian police roadblock Sunday, hours after Italian police raided the rooms of Austrian staff and athletes at the Olympics.

Walter Mayer, Austria's Nordic coach, was involved in the crash close to the border with Italy after leading police on a brief chase and slightly injuring one officer by hitting him with his car, Austrian police said in a statement. Mayer was taken into custody.

He had been banned from the Olympics under suspicion of performing blood transfusions at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games and his presence at the Turin Games last week sparked raids by police and the International Olympic Committee Saturday night.

The Austrian Ski Federation said Sunday night it had ended its relationship with Mayer effective immediately. Federation president Peter Schroecksnadel cited the accident as the reason in a brief statement. He did not elaborate.

Away from the scandal, Italy celebrated its third gold medal of the games when its men's cross-country team won the 4x10-kilometer relay. And on the speedskating track, veteran Marianne Timmer of the Netherlands won gold in the 1,000 eight years after winning the same race in Nagano.

The last gold of the day was the least unexpected. Favorites Andre Lange and Kevin Kuske of Germany won the men's two-man bobsled.

But the day was dominated by news that Carabinieri paramilitary police swooped on the Austrian cross-country and biathlon teams in their mountain accommodation overnight, while the IOC conducted doping tests on at least 10 Austrian cross-country skiers and biathletes.

Germany replaced the US atop the medal board with seven gold and 18 overall. The Americans had seven gold and 13 medals. *AP*

THE JAPANESE pair of Nozomi Watanabe and Akiyuki Kido performs in the Ice Dancing Original Dance event during the Figure Skating competition at the 2006 Winter Olympics, Feb.19 at the Palavela in Turin. AFP

Football chiefs rap sec-gen

SINGAPORE—ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST Asian Nations football chiefs have lashed out at a senior Asian soccer administrator, criticizing him for doing nothing to help the game in their region.

The broadside was delivered against Asian Football Confederation (AFC) secretary general Peter Velappan in a letter sent to Fifa president Sepp Blatter, seen by AFP.

It follows comments by Velappan at the launch of a Fifa management program last week in which he called Southeast Asian soccer chiefs' leadership unprofessional while criticizing Fifa for not training them properly.

"The jarring thing about his criticism is that he has been the AFC secretary general for the past 27 years during which time he did little or nothing to uplift standards in Asean," said the letter signed by 22 senior Asean football officials and sent to Blatter last Thursday.

"Only after the formation of the Asean Football Federation in 1994 and the inception of the Fifa Goal Project earlier this decade have Asean countries been able to plan and implement systematic programs for football development. *AFP*

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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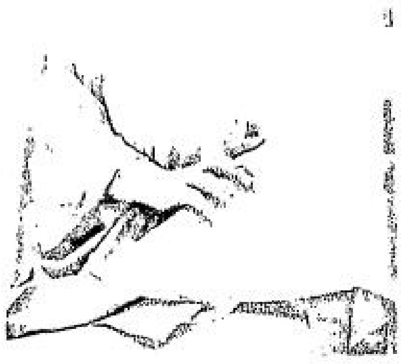

Nora's Day

Mowelfund's "Pelikula at Lipunan" will hold a Nora Aunor Day on Feb. 25. Two award-winning movies—Mario O'Hara's "Tatlong Taong Walang Diyos" and "Bulaklak ng City Jail"—will be shown at the Gateway Mall. The first is a love triangle set in World War II; the latter is a contemporary drama about a woman wrongfully imprisoned.

An exhibit of the actress' photos and memorabilia will also be held.

Festival proceeds will help build the Mowelfund film archives. Visit www.geocities.com/pelikulaatlipunan2006.

Tonyboy's dream dashed

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

ANTONIO "TONYBOY" COJUANGCO'S dream of building digital theaters was thwarted almost two years ago.

"I wanted to show digital films on Dream's pay-per-view channels; acquiring 35mm films was more expensive," Cojuangco, one of the owners of Philippine Multi-Media Systems Inc., operator of Dream Satellite TV, told INQUIRER in an exclusive interview. "With digital technology, young filmmakers have been coming up with good products at a very [low] cost."

He took the idea one step further:

"My company studied the viability of putting up Dream Theaters all over the country. We'd build 1,000 digital theaters with a seating capacity of 80 to 100 people each. We'd furnish vacant spaces in malls with screens, chairs and sound systems ... at the cost of only P150,000 per theater."

He foresaw astounding profits. "All I would need is one disc [of a movie], which costs P500. I can beam it to moviehouses via satellite. If 20,000 people watched and paid P30 each, I'd make P600,000 per screening. With three screenings in a day, I'd gross P1.8 million!"

Going digital is the wave of the future, he said.

(In March 2002, major Hollywood studios joined forces and created Digital Cinema Initiatives. Doug Miller, executive vice president and managing director of Walt Disney International-Asia Pacific, told INQUIRER last year that digital cinemas would render 35mm film superfluous. "Digital theaters will download movies from a server."

It works, Cojuangco stressed. "The Manny Pacquiao-Eric Morales boxing rematch was beamed to SM Cinemas via satellite [by Solar Sports] through Dream. They charged P300." It was a hit, and was quickly followed by the Brian Viloria-Jose Antonio Aguirre match last Sunday.

Unfortunately, his digital dream hit a brick wall. "Distributors and malls refused to cooperate," he said.

Cojuangco teamed up with filmmaker Laurice Guillen and Nes Jardin of the Cultural Center of the Philippines to put up the Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival.

After a successful launch last year, the second Cinemalaya will unveil 10 full-length and 10 short digital films in July.

It's a start, said Cojuangco. "Cinemalaya is a small version of my big plan."

DID YOU KNOW... GEORGE Yang, president of McDonald's Philippines, sang with Kuh Ledesma and Pops Fernandez during the duo's Valentine show at the Mandarin.

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5 PINK PANTHER 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
6 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
7 FIREWALL 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
9 NEW WORLD 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
10 FUN with DICK and JANE 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

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4 PINK PANTHER 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40	5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU 12:15 R4 / 1:20 / 3.45 / 6.10 / 8.35	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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MARCH 4, SATURDAY 8 pm

Eclectic, elegant

From page A2-6

could find any fault.

There was something alluring in Blunstone's calculated, effeminate moves that somehow magnetized the women, but it's immaterial now to be curious about his sexuality—in the same way that it's laughable to dissect Mick Jagger's bisexual persona.

More interesting is the fact that Blunstone became a well-respected artist after the Zombies disbanded, and Argent, who also carved a name as a sought-after session musician (he played keyboards for the Who), was only too willing to assist in showcasing it.

As "Old and Wise," "Miles Away" and other ballads demonstrated Blunstone's signature vocals, the crowd was either so carried away singing their hearts out, or too stunned to discover they were hearing the songs pitch-perfect live from the same guy who recorded it.

As more familiar tunes came on, we couldn't care less if "Summertime" was a standard blues cover or whether "Going Out of My Head" was an early Zombies original. The effect was overwhelming: Blunstone's voice was the biggest thing that mattered.

Surely Argent didn't mind that.

Culinary battle...

From page A2-6

Both **Tsai** and **Flay** won the admiration of viewers not just with their talent, skill and creativity, but also with their determination and exceedingly hard work.

Throughout the show's full hour, they were always on the go, urgently testing their limits, and never taking a much-needed rest—not even for one second! So, the viewer mentally exclaimed, this is what greatness is all about.

Other cooking shows pale in comparison to last week's "duel" of culinary masters, because they aren't as innovative and passionate. That's a good lesson to learn, if you want to achieve excellence—in any field.

Filmfest jurors

The 2006 Bangkok filmfest (Feb. 17-27) is fielding an impressive list of jurors for its International Competition module—including **Fred Schepisi, Nancy Kwan** and **Julie Delpy**.

Schepisi's film, "The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith," paved the way for his first US-produced feature, "Barbarosa." He teamed up with **Steve Martin** in "Roxanne," and his stylish adaptation of the acclaimed play, "Six Degrees of Separation," cinematically opened up the plot. His TV series, "Empire Falls," has won both Tony and Golden Globe awards.

Nancy Kwan was born in Hong Kong and educated in England. She was tapped to play the lead role in "The World of Suzie Wong," opposite **William Holden**, and later acted in films like "Flower Drum Song," "The Main Attraction," "Tamahine," "Honeymoon Hotel," "Fate Is the Hunter," "The Wild Affair," "Nobody's Perfect," "Streets of Hong Kong," and "Angkor."

She has written and produced films and TV commercials in Southeast Asia, while continuing to perform in America, Asia and Europe. She has her own production company, and was appointed Hong Kong's film ambassador in 2002.

Julie Delpy first acted onscreen in **Jean-Luc Godard's** "Detective" in 1985. A graduate of NYU Film School, she directed her first short, "Blah,Blah,Blah," which was presented at the Sundance Film Festival in 1995.

She received numerous awards and was nominated for an Oscar for Best Screenplay for "Before Sunset" in 2002. Her acting credits include "Europa Europa," "The Three Musketeers," "Killing Zoe," "Before Sunrise" and "Broken Flowers."

'Illuminations'

At 4 p.m. on March 4, "Illuminations," a book with words by **Armando S. Baltazar** and images by **Frankie Patriarca** will be launched at the Friendship Hall, Urdaneta Village Park, Urdaneta Village, Makati City. Call 8780-4359.

Miguel Castro

Theater actor **Miguel Castro** has come out with a CD-Lite OPM songs, titled "Miguel Castro Sings." The album contains six new songs, four of them composed by **Vince de Jesus**—"Suspended in Mid-Air," "Haven't I Seen You Before?," "Saan Nga Ba Nagsimula?" and "21 Year Old."

The other two songs are "Bakit Ikaw Pa?" by **Sonny Angeles**, and "Song of the Wounded Heart" by **Arnel de Pano**.

Piolo Pascual still 'pambansang' crush

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

ALMOST EVERY GIRL AND GAY I KNOW HAS a big crush on **Piolo Pascual**. He could very well be declared Pambansang Crush, huh?

What makes PJ even more endearing is that he's not stuck-up at all. It was such a delight to meet up with him during the press con of his latest teleserye with **Judy Ann Santos** ("Sa Piling Mo"). Their successful love team is reunited in this drama about the emotional journey of love and sacrifice. Hot in the heels of their multimillion-grossing movie, "Don't Give Up On Us," this new vehicle for Juday and PJ from ABS-CBN makes the most of their compelling chemistry and dramatic brilliance. This must-see TV event is directed by three of the network's finest—**Jerry Lopez Sineneng, Trina Dayrit** and **Rory B. Quintos.**

It has a mature story line centered on two lovers who are separated by a cruel twist of fate. Jennifer (Juday) grew up with Adrian (Piolo), who has been blind since childhood. Despite his handicap, he is full of life–something readily apparent when he shows his talent for singing. It isn't long before they fall in love. Jennifer soon learns that Adrian's blindness can still be cured, if he can be operated on in a year's time. Beyond that period, his affliction will become permanent.

Determined to help Adrian, Jennifer participates in a crime for which she is caught and imprisoned. Will Adrian see again? Or will Jennifer's sacrifice be in vain? And will the separated lovers find their way back to each other? These questions will be answered in the teleserye. Meanwhile, it's time to ask Piolo some questions many have always wanted to ask but were just too mesmerized to do so. Read on and swoon.

What is the secret of your charisma?

I don't usually answer self-promoting questions but for you, I will. I believe God has a lot to do with it. Call it destiny or a path He wants me to take. On the other hand, I owe it to my parents for having brought me up this way with the right values and attitude. Charisma—you think I have it? (Flashes his killer smile).

Some people say that Sam Milby and you have a striking resemblance?

I'm flattered! Sam is a nice guy. *Guapo pa*, so at least *ang kamukha ko guapo*. That means *guapo nga daw ako* (laughs).

Your love team with Juday clicks even if you're not a couple in real life.

With Juday, it's always magic. Neither one of us can't pinpoint what makes our love team sell, but we are grateful that it does. We are so comfy with each other.

In whose "piling" are you right now?

(Chuckles.) I'm still waiting for God to send the right person. Yahoo! I know she's just around. *Medyo* busy *din ako* and right now, I just want to spend time with my son while he's still young. She'll come in God's perfect time.

How did you prepare for your role as a blind man? Do you have any dream role?

I watched Al Pacino's "Scent of a Woman" and **Jerry Gonzalo** (a blind model) coached me. My role as a blind man is challenging and interesting but the hardest one and most physically exhausting so far is my role in "Dekada." I have no dream role. Anything that's different from my character, *siguro*.

Birthday girl

RUFA Mae Quinto is all agog preparing for her birthday concert in May, which coincides with her 12th anniversary in show biz. The bombshell announced, "I'll spoof **Madonna, Beyonce, Britney** and **J.Lo.** There will also be a video of how I started in show biz. It will be raining men in my concert!" Just listening to her animated stories, I can already tell that it's gonna be one helluva "Chuva" night!

CloseUp movie

CLOSEUP goes one giant leap forward in making dreams come true for the winners of its recently concluded Close Up to Film promo. The winners got guest appearances in "Close to You," the hit movie of **John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alonzo** and **Sam Milby**. Plus, they got to walk the red carpet with the stars at the Valentine's Day premiere in SM Cinema. The lucky ones—Faith Echano of Marikina, Gianne Carlo Chua of Davao and Lisa Caballero of Cebu are still ecstatic over this chance of a lifetime. As Faith puts it "I never realized what actors have to go through!"

Rivermaya's gold

RIVERMAYA's "Greatest Hits 2006: The Ultimate Collection" turned gold within a week of its release. The album contains the SEA Games anthem, "Posible," and other classics such as "Alab Ng Puso (Tagumpay)," "Umaaraw, Umuulan" and "Wag na Init Ulo Baby." To book the "Banda ng Bayan" call 812-1350 or (0917) 428-0450

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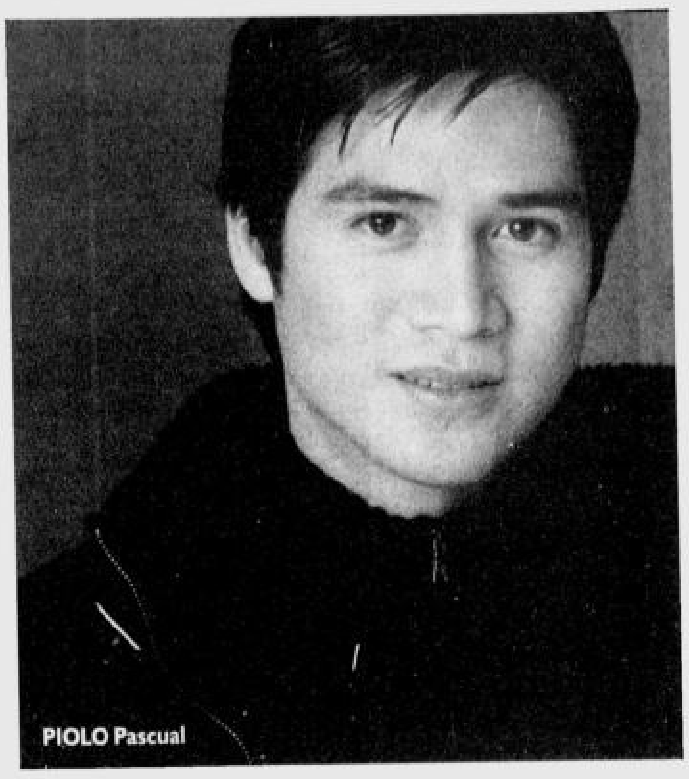

PIOLO Pascual

ROUNDUP

Hernia

MADONNA AP

LONDON—American superstar Madonna has been treated for a hernia but is now "absolutely fine," her spokeswoman said on Thursday.

The singer, who performed at the Grammy awards in Los Angeles last week, re-appeared in public on Thursday night when she accepted a Brit record industry statuette in London as Best International Female Artist of the year.

"She had a minor procedure for a hernia," the spokeswoman said, declining to elaborate.

The 47-year-old mother of two, widely regarded as one of the fittest stars in the pop business, is seen in a lycra leotard doing the splits at full stretch in the video for her latest single "Sorry."

Reuters

LISA Marie Presley with Michael Lockwood AP

Married again

LOS ANGELES—Singer Lisa Marie Presley, the only child of Elvis, has married her guitarist, Michael Lockwood, a collaborator on her 2005 album "Now What," in a wedding held last month in Kyoto, Japan, her spokesman said on Thursday.

The couple exchanged vows in a traditional Japanese service conducted on Jan. 22, with the bride's first husband and close friend, musician Danny Keough, serving as best man, and her mother, Priscilla Presley, walking her down the aisle to give her away.

Keough is the father of Lisa Marie Presley's two children, daughter Riley, who was her maid of honor, and son, Benjamin, who was a groomsman.

It was the fourth altar trip for Presley, 38, 10 years after her surprise marriage to pop star Michael Jackson ended in divorce. She later married Oscar-winning actor Nicolas Cage. They divorced in 2004.

Reuters

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BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN R18 2:20,5:00,7:40,10:20	GOAL GP 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	PINK PANTHER GP 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15

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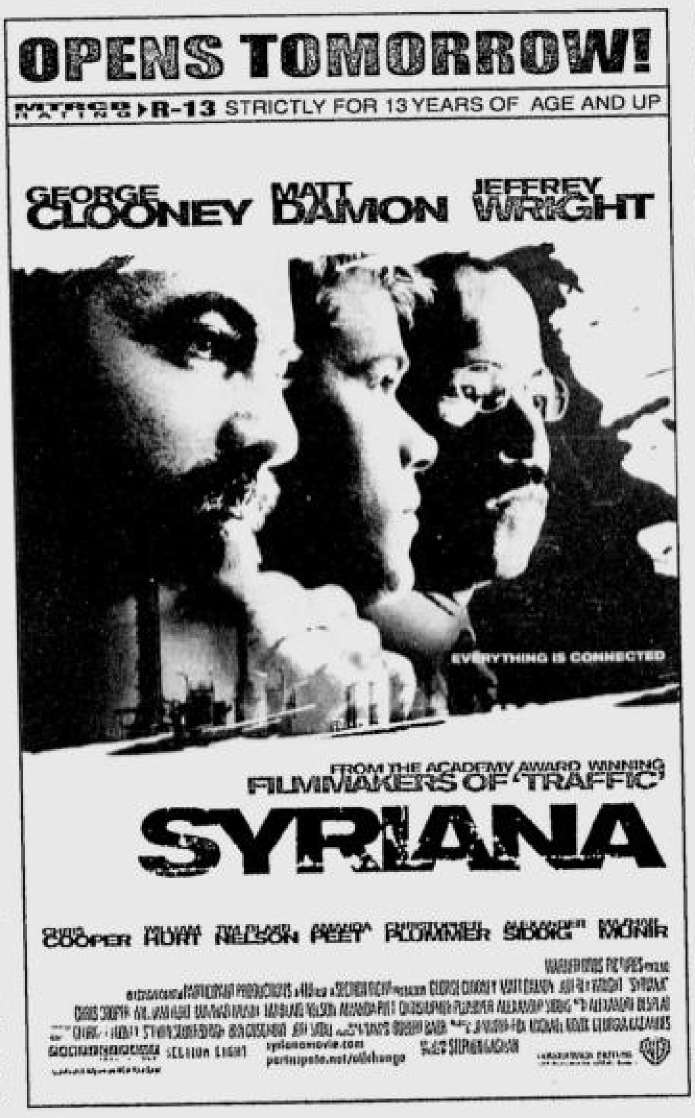

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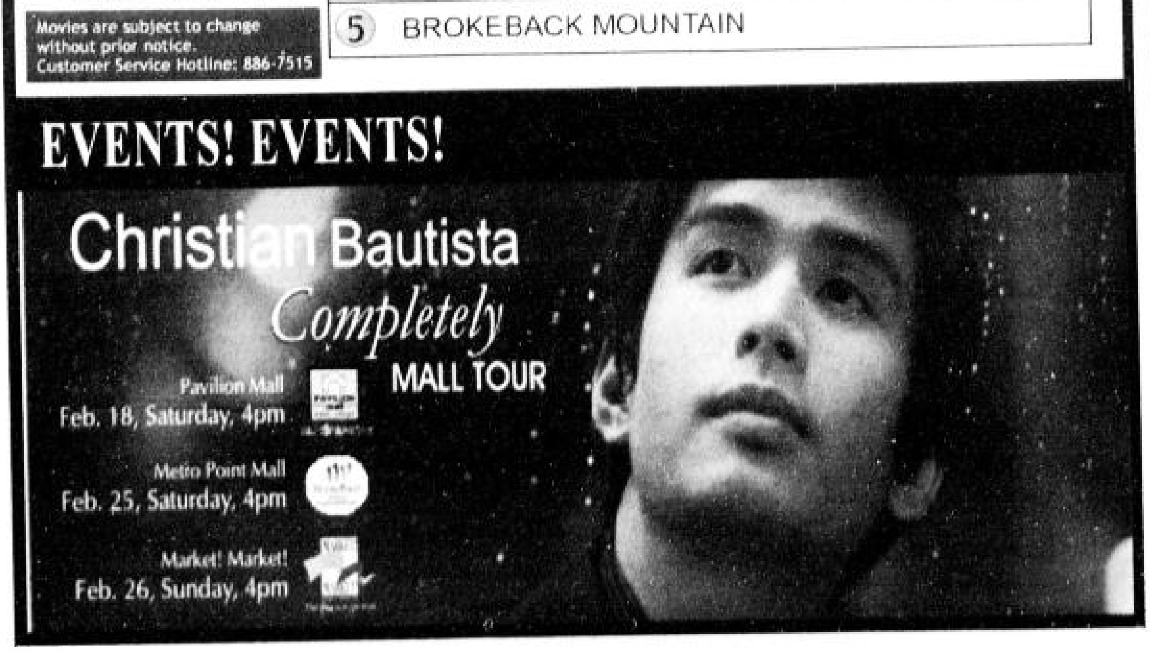

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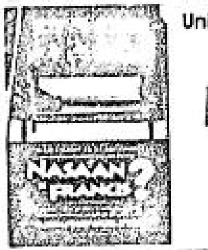

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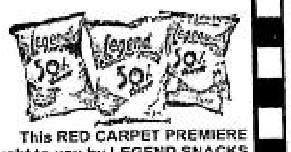

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11:15 FS / 11:35 MF / 01:10 / 03:45 / 05:50
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09:05 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:25 END
PINK PANTHER
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
07:30 / 09:10 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:10 END
MUNICH
12:00FS / 12:15 MF / 03:20 / 06:25
09:10 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 12:15 END

movietime

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 PINK PANTHER
2 GOAL
3 AEON FLUX
4 RESERVED
5 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
6 FIREWALL
7 UNDERWORLD 2
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 NEW WORLD
11 MUNICH
12 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 GOAL
2 AEON FLUX
3 PINK PANTHER
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
7 FIREWALL
8 UNDERWORLD 2
9 NEW WORLD
10 SAW 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 AEON FLUX
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 PINK PANTHER
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 NEW WORLD

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 NEW WORLD
2 SAW 2
3 FIREWALL
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 GOAL
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
7 AEON FLUX
8 PINK PANTHER
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
11 UNDERWORLD 2
12 MUNICH

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 FIREWALL
2 PINK PANTHER
3 AEON FLUX
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
7 GOAL
8 NEW WORLD
9 SAW 2
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 AEON FLUX
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 AEON FLUX
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 GOAL
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
7 PINK PANTHER
8 FIREWALL

SM CITY MANILA
1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 NEW WORLD
3 SAW 2
4 AEON FLUX
5 PINK PANTHER
6 FIREWALL
7 CLOSE TO YOU
8 GOAL
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
11 UNDERWORLD 2
12 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 AEON FLUX
2 GOAL
3 PINK PANTHER
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 CLOSE TO YOU

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 PINK PANTHER
2 MUNICH
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 PINK PANTHER
2 GOAL
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 UNDERWORLD 2

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 NEW WORLD
2 SAW 2
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BACOOR
1 GOAL
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 PINK PANTHER
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 FIREWALL
6 CLOSE TO YOU
7 NEW WORLD
MUNICH

SM CITY STA. ROSA
1 FIREWALL
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER

SM CITY MARILAO
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER

SM CITY LUCENA
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 DERAILED
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 THE MAID

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 FIREWALL
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 PINK PANTHER
4 MUNICH
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 BLOODRAYNE
7 CLOSE TO YOU
8 UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY ILOILO
1 SAW 2
2 RESERVED
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 UNDERWORLD 2
7 RESERVED
8 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 SAW 2
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 PINK PANTHER
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 HALF LIGHT
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 RUMOR HAS IT

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CHARLIZE THERON
AEON FLUX
NOW SHOWING

WIN! Limited Edition "Aeon Flux" premium items from United International Pictures and Storm Watches from No Curfew by simply answering these questions from the movie

1.) The most valuable asset in the Monican operatives
2.) The walled city
3.) The channel where "Aeon Flux" first appeared as an animated series
4.) The Chairman of the Council of Scientists
5.) The creator of "Aeon Flux" animated series
6.) The Captain of the Guard
7.) The leader of the rebellion
8.) The one responsible for the supervision of the Bregnan military

Submit your answers together with your particulars to the nearest SM Cinema branch where "Aeon Flux" is showing

NAME
ADDRESS
SIGNATURE
AGE
CONTACT NUMBER

A RELEASE THROUGH United International Pictures

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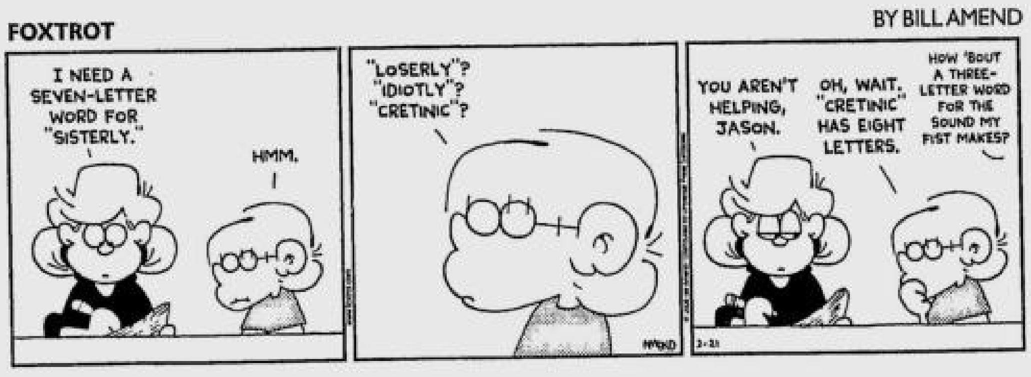
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

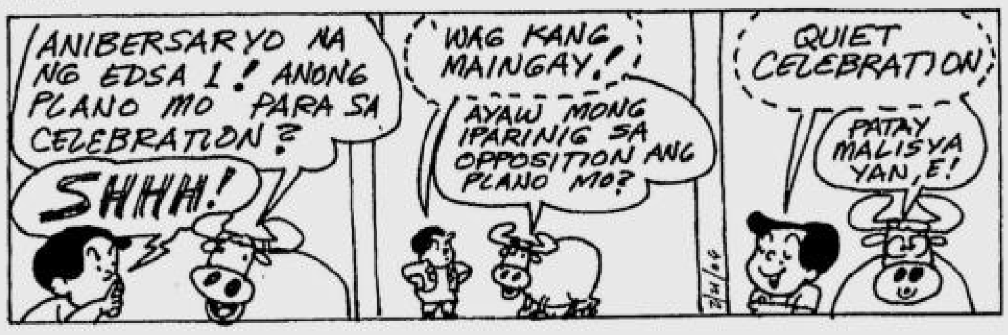
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I NEED A SEVEN-LETTER WORD FOR "SISTERLY."
HMM.
"LOSERLY"? "IDIOTLY"? "CRETINIC"?
YOU AREN'T HELPING, JASON.
OH, WAIT. "CRETINIC" HAS EIGHT LETTERS.
HOW 'BOUT A THREE-LETTER WORD FOR THE SOUND MY FIST MAKES?
2-21

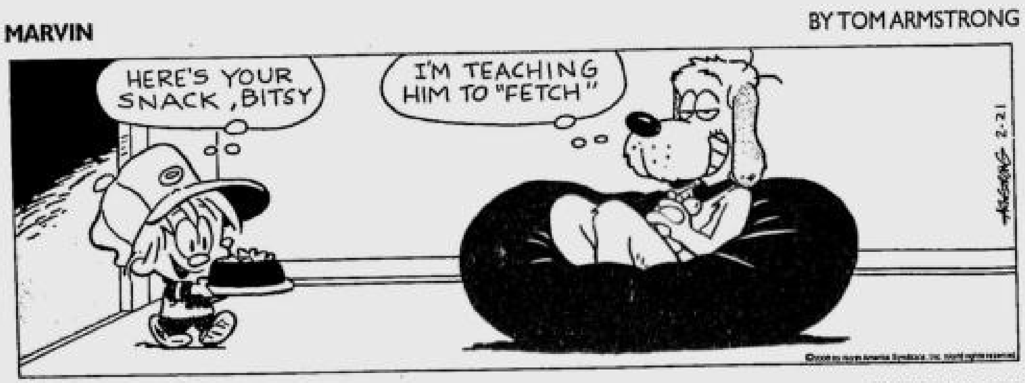
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANIBERSARYO NA NG EDSA 1! ANONG PLANO MO PARA SA CELEBRATION?
SHHH!
WAG KANG MAINGAY!
AYAW MONG IPARINIG SA OPPOSITION ANG PLANO MO?
QUIET CELEBRATION!
PATAY MALISYA YAN, E!

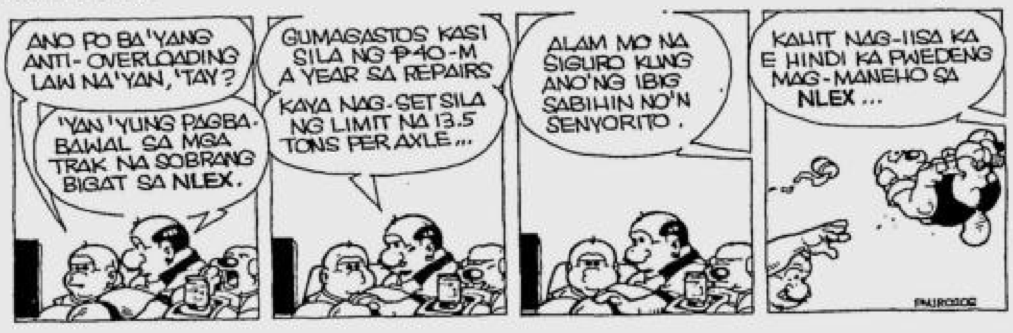
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


HERE'S YOUR SNACK, BITSY
I'M TEACHING HIM TO "FETCH"
2-21

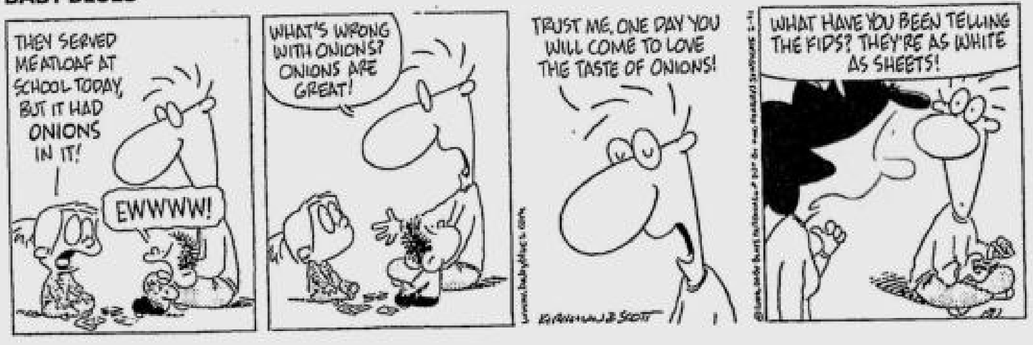
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO PO BA 'YANG ANTI-OVERLOADING LAW NA'YAN, 'TAY?
'YAN 'YUNG PAGBABAWAL SA MGA TRAK NA SOBRANG BIGAT SA NLEX.
GUMAGASTOS KASI SILA NG ₱40-M A YEAR SA REPAIRS
KAYA NAG-SET SILA NG LIMIT NA 13.5 TONS PER AXLE...
ALAM MO NA SIGURO KUNG ANO'NG IBIG SABIHIN NO'N SENYORITO.
KAHIT NAG-IISA KA E HINDI KA PWEDENG MAG-MANEHO SA NLEX...

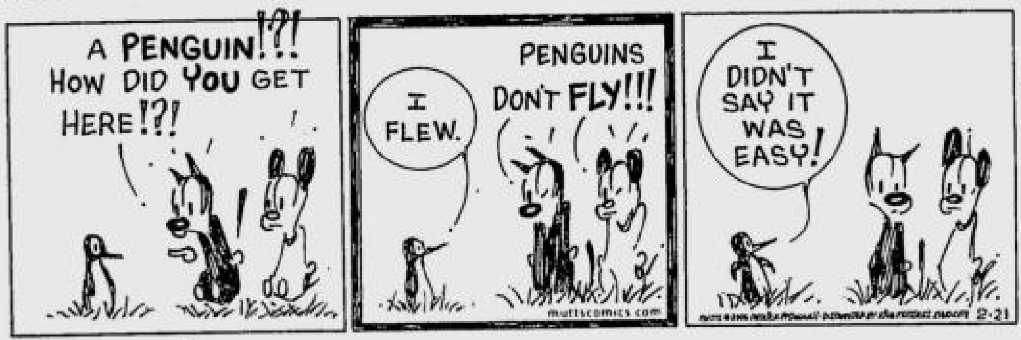
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THEY SERVED MEATLOAF AT SCHOOL TODAY, BUT IT HAD ONIONS IN IT!
EWWWW!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ONIONS? ONIONS ARE GREAT!
TRUST ME, ONE DAY YOU WILL COME TO LOVE THE TASTE OF ONIONS!
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN TELLING THE KIDS? THEY'RE AS WHITE AS SHEETS!

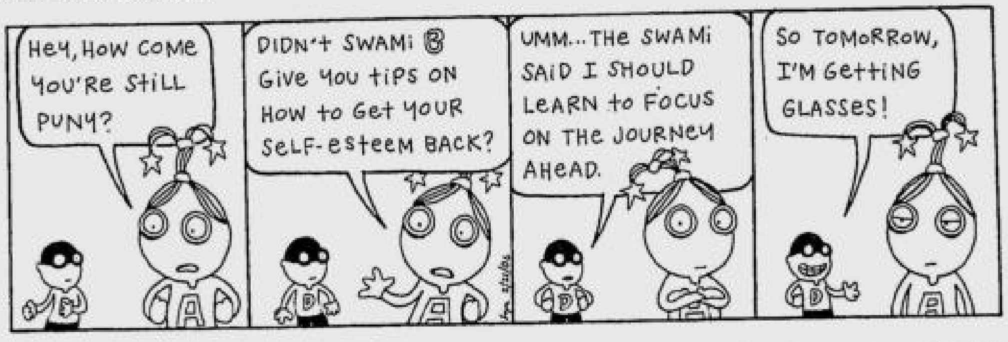
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


A PENGUIN!?! HOW DID YOU GET HERE!?!
I FLEW.
PENGUINS DON'T FLY!!!
I DIDN'T SAY IT WAS EASY!
muttscomics.com
2-21

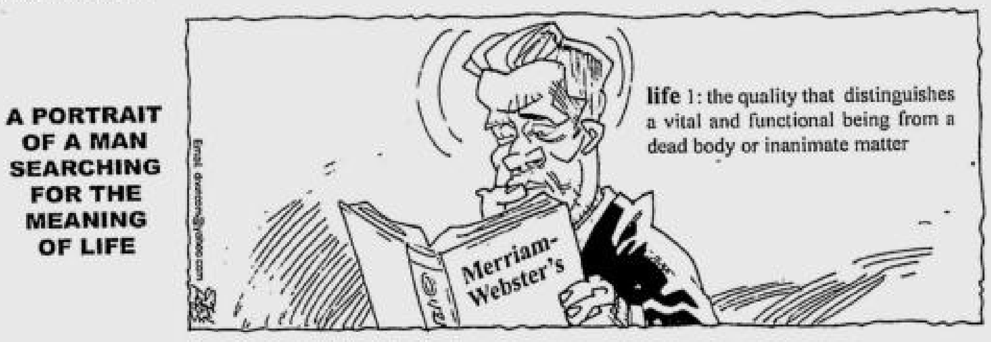
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, How come you're still puny?
Didn't Swami B Give you tips on How to Get your Self-esteem BACK?
UMM... The SWAMi SAiD I SHOULD LeARN to Focus ON The JOURNey AHeAD.
So TOMoRRow, I'M Getting GLASSes!

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


A PORTRAIT OF A MAN SEARCHING FOR THE MEANING OF LIFE
life 1: the quality that distinguishes a vital and functional being from a dead body or inanimate matter
Merriam-Webster's

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a complex, emotional individual who feels the need to share your artistic and personal feelings with others. This bodes well for artists. You understand what makes others tick. You want to become a better person. In the year ahead, you're going to work very hard to build or construct something important to you. **Birthdate of:** Nina Simone, singer; Charlotte Church, singer; Alan Rickman, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might make long-range plans about children today, especially with regard to their education. Later in the day, surprise news from the media interests you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Now is the time to make financial plans, especially about shared property or something you hold jointly with someone else. Someone unusual or a group or a friend has surprising news today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Discussions with partners are practical and serious today. However, discussions with bosses might catch you by surprise. Unusual glitches with technology are likely.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You find it easy to do careful, detailed work today. You won't make mistakes. Your powers of concentration are excellent. Be prepared for computer crashes or power outages.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're serious about your sense of responsibility regarding children today. Artists can make long-range plans about their work. However, support from others might be jeopardized.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Family discussions about future plans are productive today. Someone unusual might surprise you at home. Small appliances could break down today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You feel very serious and sober about some issue today. You're giving it a lot of thought. You might want to replace some kind of technology because you see that it is unreliable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If you shop today, you will want to buy practical, long-lasting items. Interruptions due to entertaining diversions are likely. You might spontaneously buy something hi-tech or modern.

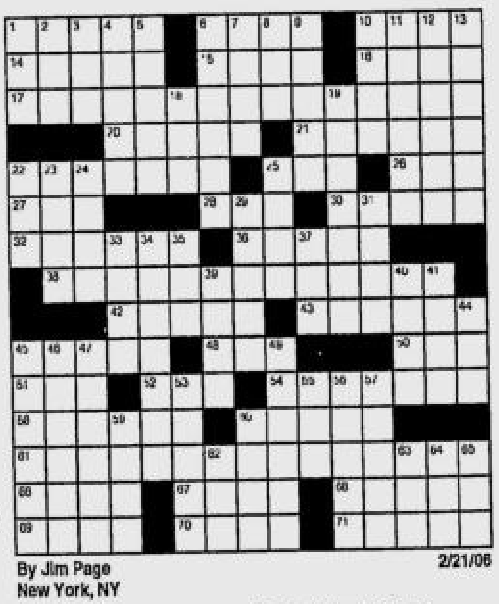
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're in a serious frame of mind today. You're taking a long-range view of things. Interruptions having to do with home and family are likely. (You might get a call at work.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're wondering how you can make the best use of other people's resources. You might also seek help from the government today. This is an accident-prone day. Be careful when walking and driving.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Seek out advice from someone older or more experienced than you. You could get some good, solid help. A friend might surprise you with money or a gift. Alternatively, you might lose money or a gift.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Discussions with bosses about your future on the job are likely today. Listen to what is said. Even though you feel rebellious about something, don't quit your day job.

DAILY CROSSWORD



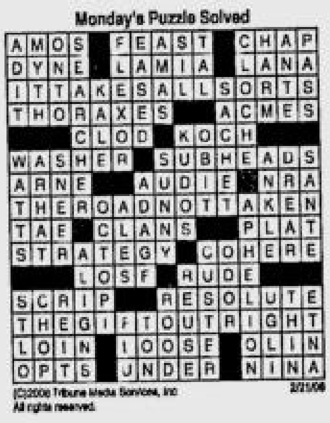
2/21/06

By Jim Page
New York, NY

ACROSS
1 Alberta, Canada national park
6 Help do wrong
10 Part of U.A.E.
14 Video-game company
15 Director Ephron
16 Clytemnestra's mother
17 Theater-in-the-round devices
20 Look after
21 Eager desire
22 Brit's meal
25 Powerful cleaner
26 French season
27 In the past
28 Thar __ blows!
30 Did some lawn work
32 Hamstring
36 Stew vegetable
38 Cyclonical
42 Bang stuff
43 Make certain
45 Dadaist Max
48 "__ Doubtfire"
50 Roman Pluto
51 Director Spike
52 Very unfriendly
54 In need of a broom
58 Biblical prophet
60 Skybox locale
61 Prepare for an all-out defense
66 Graphic beginning?
67 Turkish river
68 Active starter?
69 Small gull
70 Olden days
71 Think piece

DOWN
1 Stand in the way of
2 Did lunch
3 Part of USNA
4 First-year students
5 __ mignon
6 Hill and Baker
7 Lead singer of U2
8 Unit of work
9 Lip-smacking
10 Jai __
11 Came back after pruning
12 "__ Fideles"
13 Moistened periodically
18 Peace sign
19 Very high cost?
22 Triumphant exclamation
23 Sikorsky or Stravinsky
24 Sort of dancer
25 Grant for a spell
29 Pay homage to
31 Burden
33 Wine casks
34 Sign, in a way
35 Summer hrs. in Boston
37 Pique
39 West Point team
40 Sculptor's subject
41 Tap trouble
44 Superlative suffix
45 Bring out
46 Dwell
47 Closer to the mark
49 Most certain
53 Cut-price
55 Unused
56 Trapper's device
57 Salaries
59 P.C. image
60 Cries of discovery
62 Part of a refrain
63 Bonus NFL periods
64 Gun advocate grp.
65 Stir-fry sauce

Monday's Puzzle Solved



A	M	O	S	■	F	E	A	S	T	■	C	H	A	P
D	Y	N	E	■	L	A	M	I	A	■	L	A	N	A
I	T	T	A	K	E	S	A	L	L	S	O	R	T	S
T	H	O	R	A	X	E	S	■	■	A	C	M	E	S
■	■	■	C	L	O	D	■	K	O	C	H	■	■	■
W	A	S	H	E	R	■	S	U	B	H	E	A	D	S
A	R	N	E	■	■	A	U	D	I	E	■	N	R	A
T	H	E	R	O	A	D	N	O	T	T	A	K	E	N
T	A	E	■	C	L	A	N	S	■	■	P	L	A	T
S	T	R	A	T	E	G	Y	■	C	O	H	E	R	E
■	■	■	L	O	S	E	■	R	U	D	E	■	■	■
S	C	R	I	P	■	■	R	E	S	O	L	U	T	E
T	H	E	G	I	F	T	O	U	T	R	I	G	H	T
L	O	I	N	■	L	O	O	S	E	■	O	L	I	N
O	P	T	S	■	U	N	D	E	R	■	N	I	N	A

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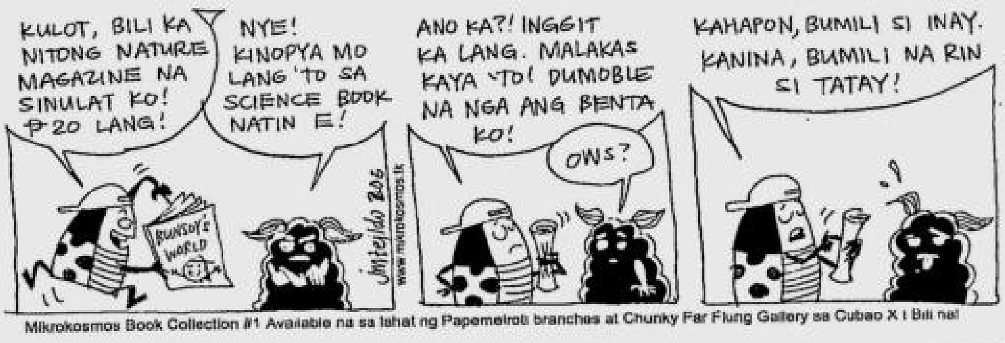
2/21/06

MIKROKOSMOS

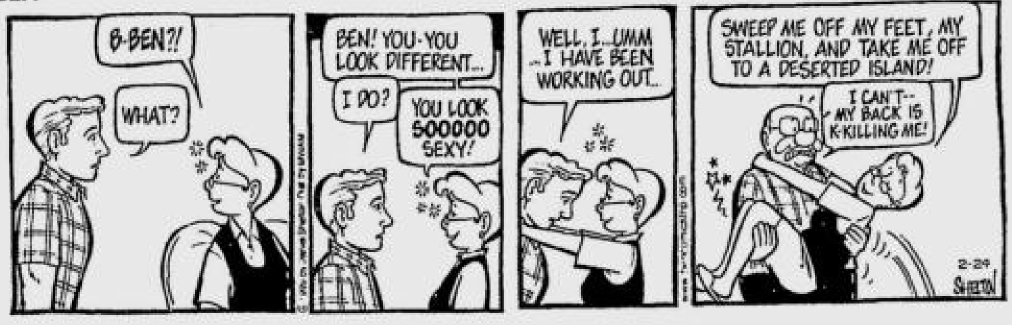
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KULOT, BILI KA NITONG NATURE MAGAZINE NA SINULAT KO! ₱20 LANG!
NYE! KINOPYA MO LANG 'TO SA SCIENCE BOOK NATIN E!
BUNSOY'S WORLD
ANO KA?! INGGIT KA LANG. MALAKAS KAYA 'TO! DUMOBLE NA NGA ANG BENTA KO!
OWS?
KAHAPON, BUMILI SI INAY. KANINA, BUMILI NA RIN SI TATAY!

Mikrokosmos Book Collection #1 Available na sa lahat ng Papemelroti branches at Chunky Far Flung Gallery sa Cubao X ! Bili na!

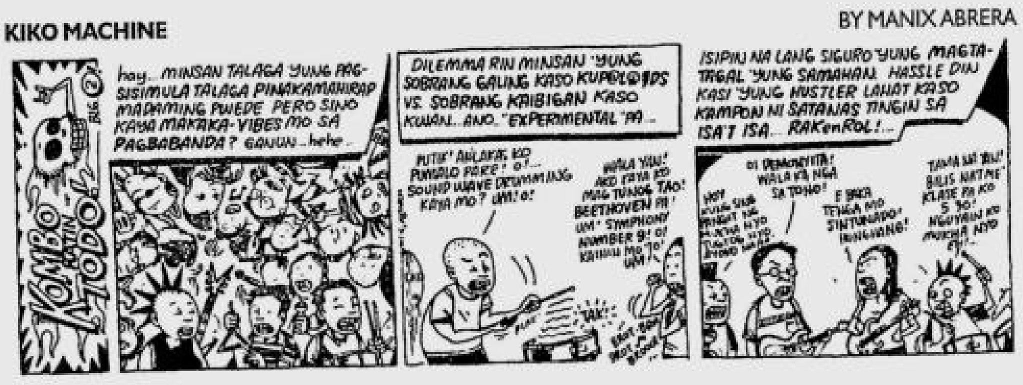
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


B-BEN?!
WHAT?
BEN! YOU-YOU LOOK DIFFERENT...
I DO?
YOU LOOK SOOOOO SEXY!
WELL, I...UMM ...I HAVE BEEN WORKING OUT...
SWEEP ME OFF MY FEET, MY STALLION, AND TAKE ME OFF TO A DESERTED ISLAND!
I CAN'T-- MY BACK IS K-KILLING ME!
2-24

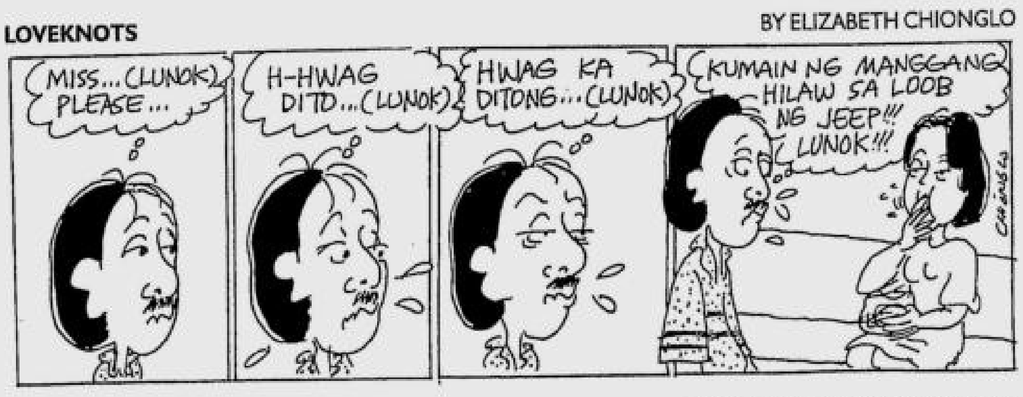
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KOMBO TODO
hay... MINSAN TALAGA 'YUNG PAG-SISIMULA TALAGA PINAKAMAHIRAP MADAMING PWEDE PERO SINO KAYA MAKAKA-VIBES MO SA PAGBABANDA? GANUN... hehe...
DILEMMA RIN MINSAN 'YUNG SOBRANG GALING KASO KUPAL@#DS VS. SOBRANG KAIBIGAN KASO KUWAN... ANO... "EXPERIMENTAL" PA...
TAK!
ISIPIN NA LANG SIGURO 'YUNG MAGTATAGAL 'YUNG SAMAHAN. HASSLE DIN KASI 'YUNG HUSTLER LAHAT KASO KAMPON NI SATANAS TINGIN SA ISA'T ISA... RAKenROL!...
OI DEMONYITA! WALA KA NGA SA TONO!

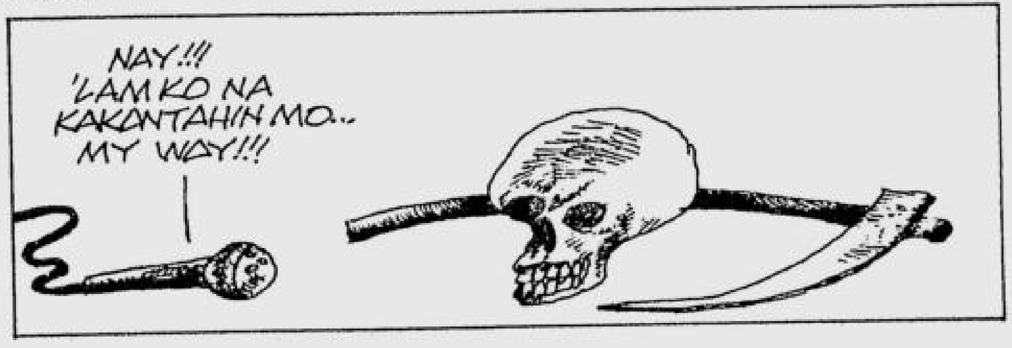
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

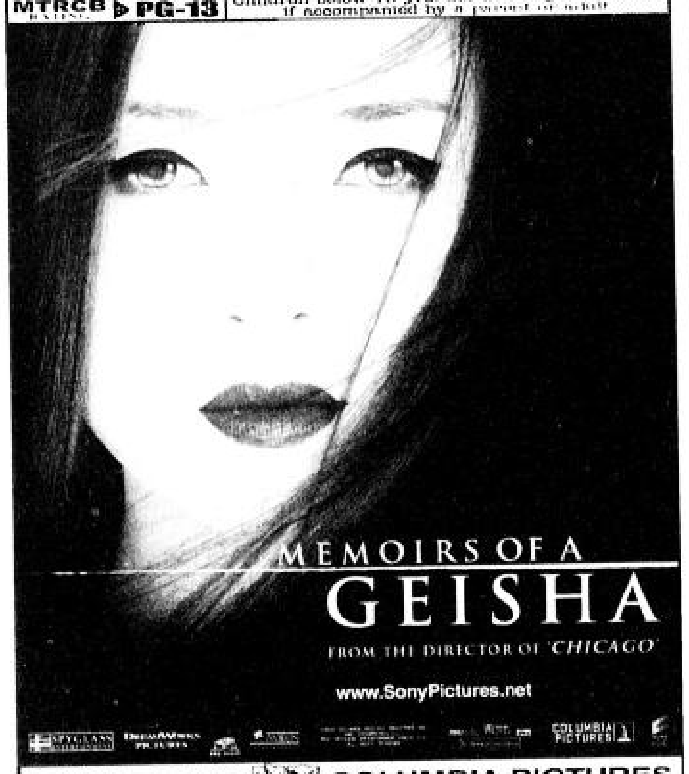

MISS...(LUNOK) PLEASE...
H-HWAG DITO...(LUNOK)
HWAG KA DITONG...(LUNOK)
KUMAIN NG MANGGANG HILAW SA LOOB NG JEEP!!! LUNOK!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NAY!!! 'LAM KO NA KAKANTAHIN MO... MY WAY!!!

6 OSCAR NOMINATIONS!
THE LOVE STORY BEGINS TOMORROW!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Film	Times	Rating
1	GOAL	11:20 , 2:00 , 4:40 , 7:20 , 10:00	GP
2	FIREWALL	11:40 , 2:20 , 5:00, 7:40 , 10:20	PG13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a destintertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Film	Times	Rating
3	AEON FLUX	11:15 , 1:30 , 3:45, 6:00 , 8:15 , 10:30	R13
4	BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	11:50 , 2:50 , 5:45, 8:40	R18
5	PINK PANTHER	10:40 , 1:00 , 3:20 , 5:40 , 8:00 , 10:20	GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

FEBRUARY 23, 2006	JULIA CLARETE	9:00PM
March 30, 2006	RICO J. PUNO	9:00PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

TEATRINO NOW OPEN NIGHTLY
FOR INQUIRIES CALL
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THE ZOMBIES—Colin Blunstone, right, and Rod Argent, left, with guitarist Keith Airey and bassist Jim Rodford, below—deliver passion in pitch-perfect covers.

Eclectic, elegant

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

VOCAL ELEGANCE AND TIGHT MUSICIANSHIP defined the Zombies' return engagement at the Araneta Coliseum after almost 40 years, moving a crowd of about 7,000 to give the band a standing ovation three times in a row.

Moments before show time, there was much hype on the quality of Colin Blunstone's vocal pipes. When he finally opened that mouth, it seemed like the star soloist from among a choir of angels emerged out of the heavens to rock our souls.

It must be noted that the Zombies defied musical classification, even as guitarist Keith Airey, recruited from the Las Vegas live circuit, let off some mean-sounding sparks that echoed Jimi Hendrix on a gallivanting spree.

The most convincing proof of the band's eclectic tastes emanated from keyboardist Rod Argent's jazz incursions. He was a sight to behold—wildly swinging his frizzy hair as he pounded like a demented Jerry Lee Lewis on the ivories of what sounded like a Hammond organ.

Special audience

Bassist Jim Rodford, whose son Steve Rodford handled the drums, was the first to annotate one of a succession of Zombies hits, the better for the audience to appreciate its beauty and impact. As Blunstone took the cue and sang "Time of the Season," it was becoming apparent that we were watching a command performance that these British blokes might have done, too, at the Royal Albert Hall.

Except that Manila had a special place in Argent's heart, because he said the band took the time to rehearse a repertoire of tunes they had not touched in a long time. Indulge us, Argent warned. But every time Blunstone flexed those magnificent pipes again in covers like "You Really Got A Hold on Me," "Misty Roses" and in his own stuff like "The Way I Feel Inside," there was no way the audience

ECLECTIC/ A2-2

Culinary battle royale on 'Iron Chef America'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE "IRON CHEF" COOKING SHOW IN Japan has spawned its US counterpart, "Iron Chef America," which is usually inferior to the original. Last week, however, the US TV spin-off came up with a special telecast that proved to be even better than the Japanese show that has inspired it.

That "Iron Chef America" episode was especially good because it showcased a culinary "duel" between two great chefs—**Ming Tsai** and **Bobby Flay**.

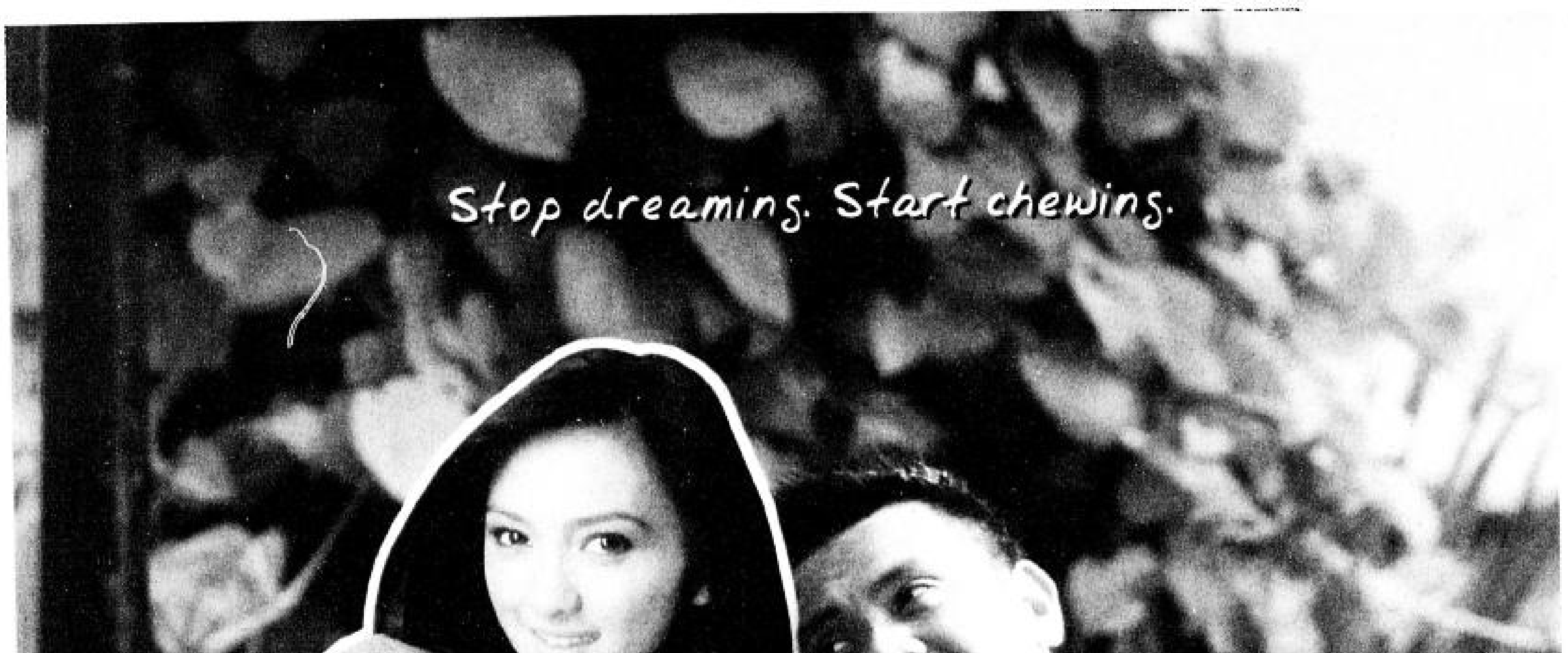
Both chefs have cooking shows on TV and have been perfecting their culinary art and craft for at least 20 years. Thus, they came to the set of "Iron Chef America" prepared to engage in a battle royale for the tilt's top honors.

Although the special ingredient for the episode was kept secret from them, they instantly set about preparing five unique dishes apiece in only one hour.

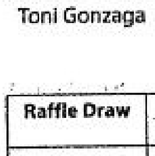
The secret ingredient was duck, so **Tsai** had a decided advantage, since duck is a staple in Chinese cooking. But **Flay** refused to be counted down and out for the competition, and marshalled all of his creative resources to give **Tsai** a run for his wok and chopsticks.

Yes, **Tsai** eventually vanquished **Flay** in the estimation of the episode's three jurors, scoring more points when it came to taste. But **Flay** gave as well as he took when it came to presentation and technical excellence.

CULINARY/ A2-2

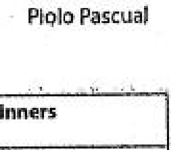

Stop dreaming. Start chewing.

DOUBLEMINT
DoubleDate



Toni Gonzaga

Hong Kong Date
- 3 days/2 nights date with Piolo Pascual or Toni Gonzaga in Hong Kong including airfare and accommodation
- US $200 Spending Money
- P5,000 cash allowance for processing of travel documents



Piolo Pascual

Raffle Draw	Draw Date	Deadline of Entries (End of office hours of)	No. of Winners
1st Draw	Mar. 4, 2006	Feb. 26, 2006	Four (4) Winners Two (2) Males, Two (2) Females
2nd Draw	Mar. 25, 2006	Mar. 19, 2006	Four (4) Winners Two (2) Males, Two (2) Females
3rd Draw	April 17, 2006	Apr. 10, 2006	Two (2) Winners One (1) Male, One (1) Female

See posters for details.

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Iya Villania
Mariel Rodriguez
Kat Alano
John Pratts
Mikel Campos
Joross Gamboa
Troy Montero

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- Lunch at Antonio's Grill & dinner at Sonya's Garden
- Horseback riding
- Make-over worth P2,000.00
- P10,000.00 cash prize

Subic Date
- Overnight stay at Subic Bayfront Hotel
- Lunch and dinner with celebrity
- Zoobic Safari Adventure
- Badminton
- Make-over worth P2,000.00
- P10,000.00 cash prize

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Per DOH BFAD Permit No. 0136. Series of 2006.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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91-day T-bill rate rises to 5.25%

Banks flock to longer term securities

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BELLWETHER 91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATE ROSE 16.3 BAsis points to 5.25 percent yesterday as the market sought higher returns from the three-month government securities.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee gave in to the higher rate to align it with the yield of the short-term paper in the secondary market.

"The market has been trading at higher rates this time. We want to respect the market," Cruz said in a briefing after the auction. He added that the willingness of banks to seek a higher rate for the 91-day bills was sensible, given the trend in the secondary market.

He added that a 16.3-basis-point increase was minimal and something the government could afford.

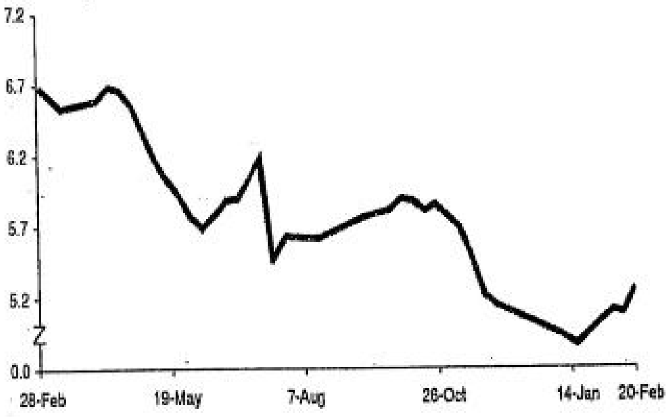
Treasury bill rates have been declining across all maturities following the upgrade in the country's credit rating outlook by Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's.

The market showed more appetite for the longer-dated 182- and 364-day paper. Bids for the three-month securities reached only P1.06 billion, making the P1-billion offering a little over-subscribed.

Tenders for the 182-day bills reached P4.7 billion compared with the P1 billion on auction, while bids for the one-year debt paper stood at P7.34 billion, much higher than the P1.5-billion offering.

The high volume of bids for the 182- and 364-day bills pulled their rates lower. The six-month bills fetched 6.114 percent,, or 5.4 basis points down than last week's, while the yield of the one-year securities also declined by 5.4 basis points.

91 DAY TREASURY BILL RATES
February 28, 2005-February 20, 2006



PAL STILL UNHAPPY

RP, Bahrain reach air accord

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES AND BAHRAIN finally signed a new air services agreement shortly before Sunday midnight, allowing Bahrain's Gulf Air to mount two additional flights to Manila if it will agree to use and pay for Philippine Airlines' four unused entitlements to the Gulf kingdom.

The Civil Aeronautics Board, one of the members of the Philippine air panel, said it was pleased with the results of the protracted air talks, originally scheduled on Feb. 16 and 17 but were extended to the weekend.

"The new agreement expands aviation links between Manama (Bahrain capital) and Manila from the current four flights a week to six, with potential to go up to 10 or even more," CAB Executive Director Tomas Mañalac said in an interview.

Bahrain has four entitlements a week to Manila and five to provincial airports. Aside from the two conditional flights to Manila, it secured two unconditional flights to Clark in Pampanga, according to the CAB chief.

"Bahrain also promised to help develop trade and tourism in the Clark and Subic corridors," Mañalac added. "Their representatives said they are interested in bidding for the upgrade of the Clark airport."

The board of directors of Clark Development Corp. had approved in the fourth quarter of 2005 a plan to upgrade the airport in the next five years in line with the expanding operations of the Clark aviation group. Budget carriers from the region have chosen Clark as their hub.

Sources, however, said that PAL was still unhappy about a part of the deal with Bahrain, which provided a 21-day period for Gulf Air and PAL to conclude a code-share arrangement.

Under a code-share deal, PAL will assign its four unused entitlements to Gulf Air for a fee.

Without a code-share deal between the two carriers within 21 days, then aviation officials of Bahrain and the Philippines would meet again to resolve the issue. PAL was worried that 21 days would not be enough to complete commercial agreements on code sharing.

The flag carrier was also concerned that the government had

RP/B2

SMC plans public sale of shares of Aussie units

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FOOD AND BEVERAGE GIANT San Miguel Corp. has asked investment bank Morgan Stanley to check demand for an initial public offering of its Australian unit this year, according to wire reports yesterday, citing people familiar with the plan.

But market analysts think SMC's reported plan to go public with its Australian business may be premature at this time.

The reports said that proceeds from a possible sale, which may occur before July, would help pay debt.

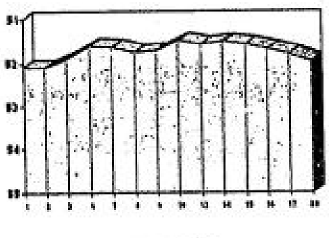
As of press time, attempts to verify with SMC president Ramon S. Ang proved futile. SMC has also not issued any official reply to the story as of this time.

SMC's Australian assets include dairy firm National Foods Ltd., brewer J Boag & Son, and juice maker Berri Ltd.

SMC/B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



FEBRUARY

₱ 51.98 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 20, 2006

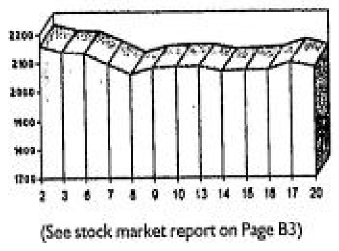
¥ 118.18 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 20, 2006

GOLD: $540.30-540.80
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 16, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Stocks fall on oil, political worries

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX
FEBRUARY



(See stock market report on Page B3)

SHARE PRICES closed 0.86 percent lower yesterday as investors took profits across the board on fresh concerns over higher oil prices and rumors of a plot to destabilize the government, dealers said.

PLDT led the fall after Credit Suisse First Boston said further gains in the share price may be limited, a view increasingly shared by other houses.

The composite index ended down 18.06 points to 2,084.10, after trading between 2,074.77 and 2,102.16. Turnover was 666.42 million shares worth P1.2 billion.

The broader all-shares index fell 12.25 points to 995.54.

Losers led gains 62 to 20, with 42 stocks unchanged.

Political unrest in Nigeria has cut output of crude oil there, raising fears that world prices will rise.

In Manila, an explosion ripped through a garbage bin on the grounds of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Malacañang palace by midday, but there were no casualties. The cause of the blast was not immediately known.

"Most of the positive news is out and has been digested by the market. It's now time for a reality check. The volatility in oil prices is an area of major concern," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

Higher oil prices threaten to push up consumer prices and lower consumption, which could lead to leaner profits for companies and slower economic growth, dealers said.

"We're going through a consolidation mode with a downward bias," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

Dealers said recent broker notes about a nearly saturated telecommunications industry here and the limited prospects for earnings have weighed on heavyweight telecommunications stocks.

PLDT retreated P25 to P1,745 as rival Globe Telecom fell P10 to P820.

Top-traded Bank of the Philippine Islands ended unchanged at P58.50, while its parent, Ayala Corp., fell P2.50 to P330.

San Miguel A-shares, limited to Filipino investors, fell 50 centavos to P61.50. San Miguel B-shares, available to Filipino and foreign investors alike, were down 50 centavos to P82.

AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

Dick Cheney to star in 'Top Gun 2' /B2
Ayala posts 12% increase in profit /B3

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The Japanese gentleman next to you looks worrie
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RP, Bahrain reach air accord

From page B1

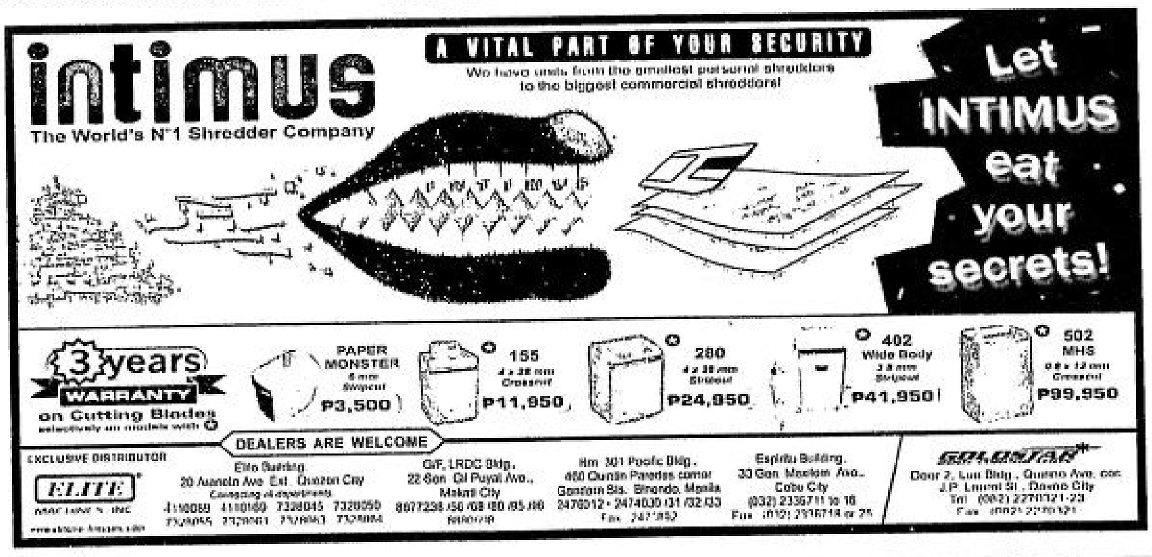
failed to prioritize the more important issue of clinching a stopover and pick-up deal with Dubai and Saudi Arabia so that PAL could continue servicing the Manila-Riyadh route. PAL will stop its thrice weekly Manila-Riyadh flights starting March 2.

"We don't expect any problems from either Gulf Air or PAL on the joint service agreement. I think this is a good deal for both countries," Mañalac said.

Bahrain originally asked for six additional entitlements to Manila.

The just-concluded air talks, the first for the Philippines this year, had been difficult and made more complex because of PAL's impending request to improve air ties with Saudi Arabia.

The Philippines had nothing much to gain from expanding air ties with Bahrain as the Gulf kingdom had long liberalized its air policies, according to former PAL president Avelino Zapanta.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Dick Cheney to star in 'Top Gun 2'

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

AT KENNEDY AIRport, a school teacher was arrested while trying to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a set square and a slide rule. The US Attorney General said that he believes that the man is a member of the dreaded Al-gebra movement. He is being charged by the FBI with carrying weapons of math instruction.

Al-gebra is a fearsome cult. They use code names such as eggs squared and pie and fly off in a tangent at the slightest provocation. They study explosives from all angles and leave behind a trail of wrecked angles. Their leader, Sir Circumference, moves in concentric circles and sleeps on a log table. As a youth, while working in a circus, he fell off a trapezoid.

If they are of the right caliber, they train to become snipers and study triggernometry. If recognizable by his beard, eclipse it. Fortunately, they can be identified by their dental records. All mathematicians have square roots.

* * *

AN OLD lady of 80 was charged with stealing a can of peaches. "Why did you do it?" asked the judge. "Because I was hungry." "How many peaches were in the can?" "Six, your honor." "In that case, I sentence you to 6 days in jail."

At that point, her husband raised his hand. "Do your wish to say something?" asked the judge. "Yes, your honor. She also stole a can of peas."

Petrol prices are so high that, when I went into a garage and asked for P50 worth, the attendant dabbed some behind my ears.

It is my mother-in-law's birthday tomorrow and my wife wants me to buy her something electric. Has anybody got a chair?

I went to see the remake of "The Pink Panther," but it is not as good as the original. As an actress, Beyonce is undresstimated.

* * *

LAST week, a successful IPO was launched, a large issue and at a fixed price. URC increased its float from 6 percent to 36 percent by offering P10 billion worth of shares at P17. Although eclipsed by the IPO of the larger First Gen, which went to an immediate discount and stayed there, URC was 3 times oversubscribed and opened at P18, a premium of 6 percent.

This is perfect because it was offered at a fair price and investors knew exactly how much they had to pay. If shares are priced too low, the issue will be many times oversubscribed by speculators, and open at a large premium. The speculators will get most of the shares and sell them at the opening at a fat profit. Unfortunately, this means that the small investor will be cut out or forced to pay a high price. Ideally, an IPO should be 2-3 times oversubscribed and open at a premium of 5 percent to 10 percent.

Unless we want the IPO market to sink like the Titanic, I would ask the president of the PSE to ask companies to follow the fixed price system. He has already made 5 major changes in the Phisix, which removes 5 small poorly performing companies, replacing them with 5 large cap stocks, all leaders in their fields.

The index is not meant to be the 30 best stocks, it is meant to be the 30 stocks most representative of Philippine industry. By next year, URC, First Gen, and RLC will be obvious candidates because of their size and float, so further changes are likely. There are supposed to be 10 IPOs this year, including GMA Network, which is currently increasing its issued capital from P2 billion to P5 billion.

Another suggestion I have is to instruct all mining and oil companies to convert their 1-centavo shares to 1-peso by means of a 1-for 100 reverse split. This does not cost the companies anything, nor does it alter the value of the holding. It just makes prices look more respectable. For example, OMICO at .0055, in dollar terms is $.0001, so for $10 an American fund manager could buy 10,000 OMICO or a hamburger combo.

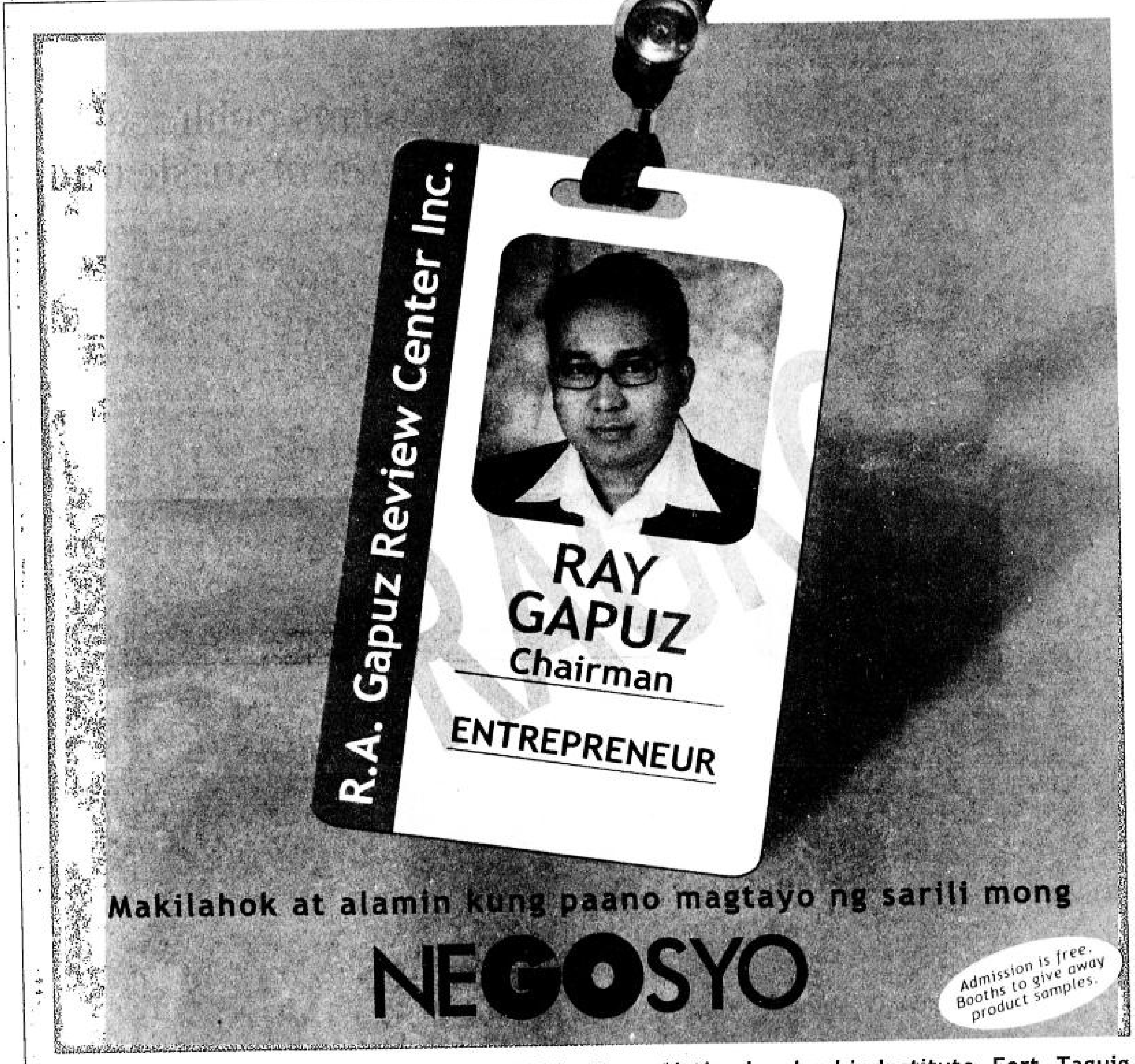
At the same time, the A and B shares should be consolidated into one class as in other countries. They are usually the same price or differ by one fluctuation. Actually, this was ordered by the SEC 10 years ago at a seminar, which I attended. Failure to comply would result in a daily fine and delisting after 30 days. None of the companies took the slightest notice of the SEC order and none have been fined or delisted. This would not affect PHILEX as it has a par value of P1.

Last Friday, the Phisix came to life with a 26-point jump. The catalyst was Globe, which rose P35 on Thursday (including a P20 dividend) and another P60 on Friday. Macquarie Securities upgraded the stock from "underperform to "outperform," with its 1-year price target raised from P650 to P950.

EPCI reported profits for 2005 were up from P1.8 billion to P2.4 billion. This will make it harder for Banco de Oro to acquire the 25-percent stake of the SSS, which indicated earlier that it would consider a slightly higher offer. Now, the price is likely to have gone up.

In the United States, Bernanke asserted that the US economy was on track, and that GDP would recover from the 4th quarter figure of 1.1 percent, affected by Hurricane Katrina. He will continue to hike interest rates at a measured pace as there was still an element of inflation present. In January, the Price Producer Index jumped 0.4 percent, far higher than expected, so Asian currencies are expected to weaken as differentials increase.

(mrbearbull@hotmail.com)



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"Naging mas madali sana ang pagtatayo ko ng aking review center kung may Go Negosyo Entrepreneurship Summit at Expo noon. 'Di biro ang hirap na dinanas ko noong ako'y nag-uumpisa. Dahil Nursing ang kurso, wala akong kaalam-alam sa pagtatayo ng isang negosyo. Ayun naging trial and error tuloy. Buti na lamang sinuportahan ako ng aking ina at mga kaibigan kaya nabigyan ako ng lakas ng loob at inspirasyon na palaguin ang aking maliit na kapital. Mula sa iilang estudyante, naging libo-libo na ang nagre-review sa R.A. Gapuz Review Center Inc. ngayon.

Kung gusto mong umasenso tulad ko, attend na sa Go Negosyo Entrepreneurship Summit at Expo!"

PROF. RAY GAPUZ, JR. Chairman, Gapuz Group of Companies•Chairman, R.A. Gapuz Review Center, Inc. •Cum Laude, Bachelor in Nursing, University of Sto. Tomas,1992•Board Top-Notcher 1992 Philippine Nursing Licensure Examination• Summa Cum Laude, Master of Arts in Nursing, University of Sto. Tomas 1998•Awardee, Ten Most Outstanding Filipino Entrepreneurs 2004•Finalist, 2005 Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Award•Recipient, Agora Award for Entrepreneurship 2005•Recipient,Philippine Marketing Association Outstanding Filipino Achiever for Entrepreneurship•Recipient, Parangal ng Bayan Award for Entrepreneurship•Recipient, Who's Who in the Philippines for Education and Entrepreneurship

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Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship
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DAY 1 (February 23, 2006/ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

PCE Recognition of Outstanding Entrepreneurship Teachers / Students / Programs by PCE • FORUM 1: Building National Confidence and Optimism To Inspire More Successful Filipino Entrepreneurs - Moderators: Rico Hizon & Anna Marie Periquet - Panelists: Socorro Ramos, Hon. Jose Concepcion III, Dr. Rolando Hortaleza, Atty. Felipe Gozon, Vivienne Tan, Henry Lim Bon Liong, Rodrigo Rivera, Marixi Prieto*, Grace Glory Go • FORUM 2: A Global Market Beckons The Filipino Entrepreneur - Panelists: Dennis Mendiola, Dr. Paco Sandejas, Guillermo Luchangco, Ben Colayco, Menardo Jimenez Jr. • FORUM 3: Uncommon Heroes for the Common Good - Panelists: Dr. Justin Arboleda, Francisco Colayco, Ray Gapuz Jr., Rina Lopez-Bautista, Dylan Wilk, Gerry Geronimo • Breeding The Entrepreneurial Mindset and Culture By Raju Mandhyan • FORUM 4: New Approaches In Entrepreneurship Education • CULMINATING FORUM: Triggering the Age of Entrepreneurship in the Philippines - Panelists: Sec. Arthur Yap, Sec. Estrella Alabastro, Chairman Carlito Puno, OIC/Secretary Fe Hidalgo, Undersecretary Zorayda Amelia Alonzo, Executive Director Gondelina Amata, Gov. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte*, Linda Wirth*, Johnlu Koa, Prof. Josephine Aguilar

DAY 2 (February 24, 2006/ 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Opening Ceremonies Cutting of Ribbon: VP Noli de Castro, Sen. Manuel Villar, Sen. Manuel Roxas II, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Cong. Wilhelmino Alvarado, Mayor Rosendo Capco, Mayor Freddie Tinga, Government Officials, Partner Organizations • International Workshop on Technopreneurship - Conducted by: Prof. Patrick Chan - HOST: DOST • LUNCH BREAK TOPIC: Feng Shui Master Charlie Chao's Business Outlook - HOST: Johnny Litton • RADYO NEGOSYO Live! • Business Plan Competition Brief: PCE/PESO, CFBC, ENEDA, JCI, HSBC, TIES, ONIA, GEN-P • Easy Tips on How to Start a Retail Business and How to Supply to Retailers - By: Steven T. Cua • "Elevator Pitch" Exhibition by Business Plan Contest Winners & Runners-up • Funding Options for Outstanding Business Plans • Easy on the pocket Business Ideas By: Food Cart Association of the Philippines • Awarding of PCE-ENEDA Cup Winners • GO NEGOSYO Concert with Orange and Lemons at the Central Plaza, Market! Market!

DAY 3 (February 25, 2006/ 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

The Franchise Boom: Now is the Time to Get Started By: Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. • International Workshop on Technopreneurship - Conducted by: Prof. Patrick Chan - HOST: DOST • Franchise Your Business An Option for Growth - By: Philippine Franchise Association • The Entrepreneur: Know Thyself - By: Lex Ledesma • Finding Your Opportunity of a Lifetime: Where do Entrepreneurs Get Their Ideas - By: Jay Bernardo • Moving Innovations to Market - By: Maoi Arroyo • The Essentials of a Successful Business Start-up - By: Joel Santos • FORUM: Financing Programs that Work - Moderator: Mau Bolante - Panelists: National Livelihood Support Fund, Personal Bank Loan providers, ABS-CBN Bayan Microfinance Foundation, Pawnshops, Cooperatives • Safeguarding and Optimizing Your Intellectual Capital - By: Intellectual Property Office

*final list of speakers for confirmation

MENTORING SCHEDULE
FEB 24
Robert Trota • Butz Bartolome • Johnlu Koa • Maria Ester Bautista • Les Reyes • Jean Henri Lhuillier • Mars Chua • Resh Mirpuri • Joey Sunico • Edward Lim • Henry Lim • Joji Bian • Delby Bragais • Vince Padilla • Rommel Juan • Joey Singian • Tess Ngan Tian • Ben Colayco • Carl Balita • Chit Juan • Luis Pellicer • Cary Go • Jose Che Soler • Marissa Andal • Joey Concepcion • Anna Marie Periquet
FEB 25
Mel Alonzo • Leo Riingen • Butz Bartolome • Les Reyes • Luis Pellicer • Jojo Mitra • Greg Banzon • Bing Limjoco • Rommel Juan • Richie Cuna • Ray Gapuz • Chit Juan • Tess Ngan Tian • Victor Tan • Rolando Hortaleza • Jo Magsaysay • Joey Concepcion • Anna Marie Periquet

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 20, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		FINANCIAL			
		BANKS			
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35	35	35	35	110,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	59	58	58.5	5,629,800
China Banking Corp.	615	635	615	635	1,180
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	63	64.5	63	64.5	44,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33	33	32.5	33	541,100
Philippine National Bank	30.5	31.5	30	31.5	20,400
Security Bank Corp.	39	39	39	39	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	34.5	34.5	34	34	6,200
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS			
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3235	3280	3235	3280	890
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	146	146	146	146	1,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2180	2200	2170	2200	1,630
Ivantage Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.75	0.76	25,380,000
		INDUSTRIAL			
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER			
First Gen Corp.	45	45.5	45	45	590,100
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42	42	41.5	41.5	228,900
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	14,100
Manila Electric Co. B	19.75	19.75	19	19	374,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	4,257,000
Petron Corp.	4.65	4.7	4.6	4.65	2,577,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO			
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	13,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	50,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	35.5	33.5	34	799,900
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	120,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.76	1.78	110,000
San Miguel Corp. A	61.5	61.5	60.5	61.5	236,500
San Miguel Corp. B	83	83	81.5	82	156,200
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	17.5	17.5	3,704,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	700,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES			
Southeast Asian Cement	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	310,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	1,140,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	75,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	80,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS			
Steniel Manufacturing	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.24	1,180,000
		HOLDING FIRMS			
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	42,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	14,000,000
Ayala Corp.	330	330	330	330	149,110
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	6,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	28,000
APC Group Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	180,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	200,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	2,080,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3	3.05	250,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	2,683,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	60,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	20,400,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	3,790,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	400,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	900,000
SM Investments Corp.	217	219	215	217	253,200
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	200,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.13	3,930,000
		PROPERTY			
Ayala Land Inc.	10.5	11	10.5	10.75	9,993,400
Belle Corp.	1	1	0.99	0.99	940,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.235	7,750,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	526,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	270,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.44	3,370,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	120,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.52	1.52	5,943,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.21	570,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.42	7,553,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	3,260,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	200,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	108,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	2,690,000
SM Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	110,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.9	8	497,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	900,000
		SERVICE			
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	10.75	11.25	10.75	11	136,300
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	7,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.89	0.9	0.88	0.9	510,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	825	825	805	820	87,440
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	13,081,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1760	1770	1745	1745	106,200
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	1,610,000
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	40,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.0525	3,300,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.24	142,000
Philweb Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.026	0.028	102,100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	386,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	200,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	2,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.78	1.78	1,291,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	21,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29.	0.29	470,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	12,110,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.6	10,000
Far Eastern University	580	600	580	600	1,980
iPeople Inc.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	23,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES			
Paxys Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	222,000
		MINING			
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	100,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.24	1.24	1.18	1.18	471,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	3,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6	6.3	6	6.1	1,028,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.215	1,730,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	2,130,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	61,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	13,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	66,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.68	1.7	1.66	1.66	2,081,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.8	1.8	1.72	1.76	3,027,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	27	27	130,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	1,120,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.37	0.37	0.34	0.34	470,000
		OIL			
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.32	0.36	0.29	0.29	77,220,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	84,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.0085	26,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	170,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	300,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4	4	4	4	13,000

CURRENCIES

February 20, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.837731	1.000000	51.7770
Japan	Yen	0.007093	0.008467	0.4384
United Kingdom	Pound	1.459412	1.742100	90.2007
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107944	0.128853	6.6716
Switzerland	Franc	0.639392	0.763242	39.5184
Canada	Dollar	0.728588	0.869716	45.0313
Singapore	Dollar	0.513158	0.612557	31.7164
Australia	Dollar	0.618572	0.738389	38.2316
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.222925	2.653505	137.3905
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223389	0.266660	13.8069
Brunei	Dollar	0.511592	0.610687	31.6195
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000090	0.000108	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021381	0.025523	1.3215
UAE	Dirham	0.228084	0.272264	14.0970
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.193700	61.8062
India	Rupee	0.018914	0.022578	1.1690
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225209	0.268832	13.9193
New Zealand	Dollar	0.559270	0.667601	34.5664
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.001028	0.0532
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025905	0.030923	1.6011

SMC plans public sale . . .

From page B1

"I guess it is a surprise if they will do so at this time. They are just consolidating their Australian businesses last July. The questions are why and why so soon? People think they should fix up their Australian businesses first and create synergy and when the timing is right, offer the shares. If the sole purpose is to raise capital, the debt burden may be a bit painful," one local analyst said, requesting anonymity.

Another analyst said this year may not be a good time for SMC to list its Australian businesses given its debt profile.

"Who will buy the shares if you have not shown any synergy or solid financials yet? Who will buy into a company with a debt burden?" another local analyst said.

Analysts expect SMC to shed light on the issue when it holds an investors' briefing on Thursday to report 2005 financial results.

Ayala posts 12% increase in profit

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AYALA CORP. YESTERDAY SAID ITS NET income grew by 12 percent last year to P8.2 billion from P7.3 billion in 2004.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Ayala said the growth was fueled by the strong performance of its operating subsidiaries, including Ayala Land Inc., Bank of the Philippine Islands and Globe Telecom.

Lower interest expenses and gains from the sale of shares in ALI and Manila Water Co. further boosted earnings.

ALI posted consolidated profit of P3.6 billion in 2005, up 21 percent from year-ago level. Revenue also grew by 22 percent to P22 billion.

Revenue from residential development business and shopping centers rose 10 percent and 22 percent, respectively. Sales of upper mid-income housing products through subsidiary Community Innovations grew by 75 percent, while sales of affordable housing products through Avida Land rose 12 percent. ALI's earnings last year were partly boosted by gains from the sale of its stake in the MRT-3 project in the first quarter of the year.

BPI posted a 21-percent increase in unaudited net income to P8.1 billion in 2005. Its total revenue grew 23 percent.

Globe Telecom's consolidated net income last year hit P10.3 billion which was, however, 9 percent lower than year-ago level.

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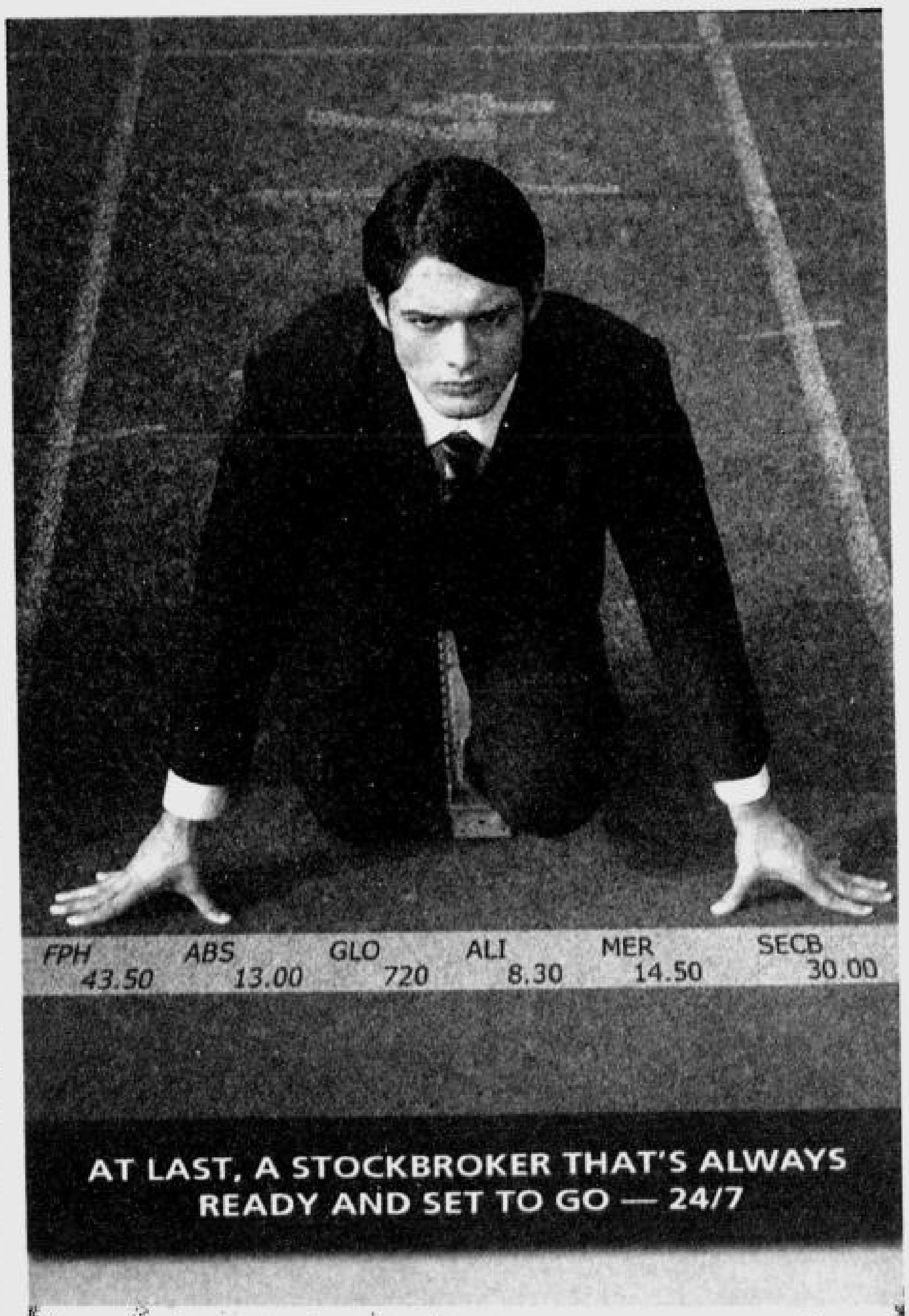
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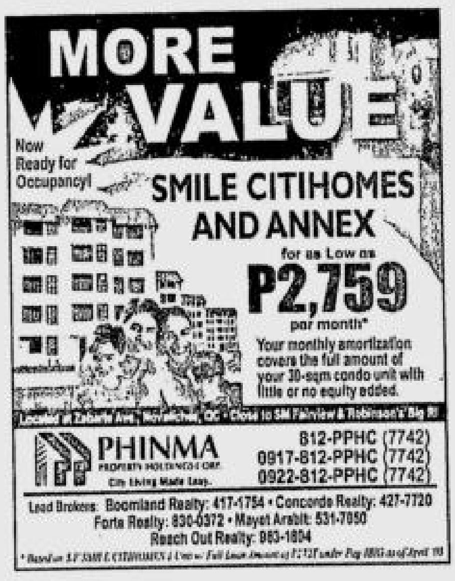
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Province of Batangas
Municipality of San Jose, Batangas

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *Municipal Government of San Jose, Batangas*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

PROJECT TITLE/LOCATION	REFERENCE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	SOURCE OF FUND	DURATION (CALENDAR DAYS)
Improvement of Public Market, San Jose, Batangas	2006-02-0021	Supply of Labor Materials & Equipment	11,723,973.92	Special Account (Operation of Market)	180

Prospective Bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examinations of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualifications and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR)

The Schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

	BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1.	Receipt from Prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	March 7 & 8, 2006
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Upon Receipts of the Letter of Intent (LOI)
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	March 9, 10 & 13, 2006
4.	Opening of Eligibility Envelope	March 14, 2006
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	March 21, 2006
6.	Pre-Bid Conference	March 22, 2006 / 9:00 AM
7.	Receipt of Bids	April 5, 2006 / 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
8.	Opening of Bids	April 5, 2006 / 1:00 PM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the *Municipal Government of San Jose, Batangas* upon their submission of a LOI. Prospective Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the address below. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to Bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of *Three Thousand Six Hundred Pesos (Php 3,600.00)* to the *(Municipal Government of San Jose, Batangas)* Cashier.

The *Municipal Government of San Jose, Batangas*, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Date of Publication : February 21, 2006
Website : www.sanjosebats.gov.ph
GEPS

Approved by:

(Sgd.) MANSUETO O. ILAGAN
MGDH-Municipal Engineer
BAC Chairman

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(PDI - Feb. 21 & 27, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office 10
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

Standard Form Number: SF-INFR-05

Contract for the Construction of 100 TCC Warehouse
at Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region 10**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with CIAP Registration of at least Medium A, to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for hereunder project:

Name of Contract	Construction of 100,000 Cavans Capacity Warehouse
Location	NFA Compound, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City
Brief Description	Contract Involves the Complete Construction of a Warehouse Building (25 m. x 78 m.)
Approved Budget for The Contract (ABC)	Twelve Million Eight Hundred Sixteen Thousand Nine Hundred Sixteen Pesos & 33/100 (P12,816,916.33)
Contract Duration	One Hundred Eighty (180) Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a current and valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipments (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms	February 22 - March 7, 2006
2. Submission and Opening of Eligibility Requirements	March 10, 2006 Deadline for Submission - 1:30 PM Opening of Eligibility Docs. - 1:35 PM
3. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	March 13-14, 2006
4. Issuance of Bid Documents	March 22-24, 2006
5. Pre-Bid Conference	March 30, 2006 - 1:30 PM 2nd Floor Conference Room
6. Receipt and Opening of Bids	April 12, 2006 Deadline Dropping of Bids - 1:30 PM Opening of Bids - 1:35 PM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the 2nd Floor, NFA-Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable and non-transferrable amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) to the NFA Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. The may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Checks by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) to the NFA Cashier.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region 10 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region 10 reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby including any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **CAMILO D. MAGTRAYO**
Asst. Regional Director/
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Feb 21 & 27, 2006)

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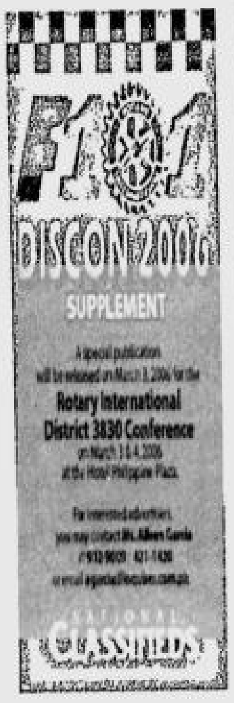
DISCON 2006
SUPPLEMENT
A special publication will be released on March 3, 2006 for the
Rotary International District 3830 Conference
on March 3 & 4, 2006 at the Hotel Philippine Plaza.
NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

SECTION 1. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Brief Description of Goods :
Lot 1: PVC Pipes & Fittings
Lot 2: Rice (Best Quality)
Lot 3: Loyalty Ring (14k)
Lot 4: Guess Wrist Watch

The **ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT**, through its *internally generated funds* intend to apply the sum of for **Lot 1: P282,920.00, Lot 2: P1,497,000.00, Lot 3: P147,000.00, Lot 4: P105,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under *ZCWD Purchase Requisition Nos. 8847, 8811, 8785 & 8784*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening

The **ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT** now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the supply/delivery of **PVC Pipes & Fittings, Rice, 14k Loyalty Ring & Guess Wrist Watch, Delivery of GOODS is required by for Lot 1: Fifty (50) calendar days upon receipt of Purchase Order, Lot 2: Monthly for a period of Three (3) months, Lot 3: Thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of PO and Lot 4: Five (5) Calendar Days upon receipt of PO.** The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules & Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of the Eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall be advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be then awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT** and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00-5:00 pm)

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount for **Lot 1: P500.00, Lot 2: P1,000.00, Lot 3: P220.00 and Lot 4: P190.00**. The methods of payment will either be thru **Cash, Certified Check or Cashier's Check only**. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative. Issuance of Bid Documents will be on February 14 to 22, 2006. After these dates the BAC Secretariat will no longer issue Bid Documents.

The **ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **February 23, 2006 at 2:00 pm** at this address:

2nd Floor ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 pm. **February 28, 2006**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of **Cash, Certified Check or Cashier's Check** and in the amount of for **Lot 1: P2,829.20; Lot 2: P14,970.00; Lot 3: P1,470.00 & Lot 4: P1,050.00**. Late Bids shall not be accepted

Bid Opening shall be on **February 28, 2006** at the 2nd Floor, **ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT** Main Office Building, Pilar St., Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative's who choose to attend at the address below.

The **ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time or prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Noel M. Kawaguchi
Pilar St., Zamboanga City 7000
Telephone No. (062) 991-1556
Email: zcwd@jedlink.com.ph
Fax: (062) 991-2799

FOR AND IN THE ABSENCE OF THE
BAC I CHAIRMAN

(Sgd.) RODOLFO G. CARTAGENA
BAC I Vice-Chairman

(PDI–Feb. 21, 2006)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center, Batac, Ilocos Norte, through its Bids and Awards Committee, invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Hospital Medical Equipment
Drugs and Medicines Requirements
Medical / Surgical Supplies, Dental & X'ray Supplies
Laboratory Supplies and Reagents

The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 & its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Issuance of Bid Documents —	February 22-28, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference —	March 17, 2006
Eligibility Check —	March 20-28, 2006
Opening of Bid Documents —	Mach 29-31, 2006
Bid Evaluation —	April 12, 2006
Post-Qualification —	April 21, 2006
Issuance of Notice of Award —	End of April 2006

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **TWO THOUSAND PESOS only** (Php 2,000.00) to the Cashier. Bid documents maybe secured at the Property & Supply Office.

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **MONA LIZA B. PASTRANA, M.D., FPOGS**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - February 14 & 21, 2006)

More Classified Ads on page A1-17

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
INSURANCE COMMISSION
1071 United Nations Avenue
Manila

Head Office:
P.O. Box 3589 Manila
Fax No. 522-14-34
Tel Nos. 523-84-61 to 70
E-mail oic@i-manila.com.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Insurance Commission (IC) invites eligible bidders to submit bids for the purchase of the following IT Equipments. Allotted budget is Ps2,500,000.00.

A. THREE (3) SERVERS
B. TEN (10) WORKSTATIONS (BRANDED)
C. TEN (10) LAPTOPS/NOTEBOOKS (BRANDED)
D. SIX (6) LASER PRINTERS

A complete set of Bid Documents can be acquired upon submission of a written application and upon payment of non-refundable fee of **TWO THOUSAND PESOS (Ps2,000.00)** from February 21, 2006. A pre-bid conference will be held on March 9, 2006 at 9:00 AM.

Bid proposal must be submitted in two (2) sealed envelopes and labeled as follows:

A. Eligibility Check Envelope containing:
1. Legal Documents;
2. Technical Documents;
3. Financial Documents; and
4. Other documents such as valid joint venture agreement, in case of a joint venture; and letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative to verify any or all of the documents submitted for eligibility check.

B. Technical and Financial Proposal Envelope

Eligibility check screening as well as the preliminary examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualifications of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Evaluation on Bids, Post qualifications and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 1984 and its implementing rules and regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

Deadline of submission of sealed bids shall not be later than 4:00 PM on March 22, 2006 and bids shall be opened at 9:00 AM of the following day at the Function Room, Insurance Commission, 1071 United Nations Avenue.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Nancy V. Camaliga/Ariel S. Sim at Telephone Nos. 525-7521 and 404-1664, respectively.

IC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate and indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

IC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **PAMELA F. PITAS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **EVANGELINE CRISOSTOMO-ESCOBILLO**
Insurance Commissioner

(PDI–Feb. 21 & 28, 2006)

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LUZ FRAGANTE HUESCA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on February 18, 2006 at the age of 88.

Her husband **Canuto** (†); children **Teresita** and **Roberto Ordoyo**, **Reuben**, **Agustin** and **Remedios**, **Rhodora**, **Francisco** and **Evangeline**, **Jocette** and **Eduardo Quilbet**.

Her brothers **Manuel**, **Eduardo**, **Alfredo** and sister **Consuelo**; grandchildren and other relatives and friends, request the readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their residence in Barangay Baldoza, La Paz, Iloilo City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 26, 2006 at Christ the King Memorial Park, Pavia, Iloilo after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
Segunda Cuevas	Superior Chapel Q.C.	Feb. 23, 2006/9:00 AM	North Cemetery
Lui Wu Yuet	Chapel B-7, Q.C.	Feb. 22, 2006/9:00 AM	Chinese Crematory
Delfin Chua Lu	Chapel B-6, Q.C.	Feb. 22, 2006/9:00 AM	Eternal Gardens Mem. Park

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"Come to ME, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

JOSE "Peping" V. PURUGGANAN

of Aparri, Cagayan and S.F.D.M., Quezon City

In Peace and Grace joined our Lord Father
on February 19, 2006 at the age of 84.

His bereaved wife **PRESING**; children **ALMA & ANDY MARQUEZ, FE, EVELYN & SID AGBAYANI, PANCHO & SHIELA, JAYJAY** (†) **& MATHIE, PRECY & WINSTON MUNGCAL, IRENE & JUN MONTALBO, TONY**; grandchildren **ALAN** (†), **MARIE, LIZA, ANDREW, JOSEPH, JOHN, ALDRIN, MIGUEL, MARA, JOYCE, JAYSON, JASMINE, PJ, PIA** and **LUIGI**; great grandchildren, brother **RODOLFO**, sister **NENA**, relatives, friends and his dedicated nephew **JOJO** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 23, 2006 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

The Most Loved Mother and Grandmother

SOCORRO QUINTANS POSADAS LLAMAS

(Coring)

wife of the late **Judge Alfonso J. Llamas Sr.**

has joined our Creator on the
18th February 2006 at the age of 85.

We, her family,

Carlos (†) and Teresita Llamas
Sonia and Miguel Tan
Alicia and Gil Pedrozo
Lamberto and Mely Llamas
Virginia and Benjie (†) Mercado
Josefino Llamas
Blanca and Bojie Flores
Alfonso Jr. and Moni Llamas
Roberto and Cecile Llamas
All grandchildren and great-grandchildren

request all relatives, friends and readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Eternal Garden Chapel, Dagupan City.

Interment will be on Thursday, the 23rd of February 2006 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Eternal Garden Chapel.

To everything, there is a season:
and a time for every purpose under the Heaven
A time to live, a time to die,
A time to laugh, a time to cry,
A time for sorrow and a time for joy....

Ecclesiastes 3: 2 and 4

Our dearly beloved

Timoteo Nagrampa Sarte, Jr.

of Pili Cam. Sur & Naga City

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 16, 2006 at the age of 71.

His loving wife **NIEVES**, children, **ROSARIO & NESTOR MANDIGMA, GIL JOSE & ANNIE, SANTIAGO & CRISTY, †JET, VIC & RHOELA, ALEXANDER & NOEMI, DON & MARIJO, CARLO & FLORENDA**, grandchildren , **Niño, Jicjic, Kiko, Dang, Niña, Dodoy, Bunonoy, Dorothy, TJ, Raiza, RJ, Cindy, Kar, Indoy, Kyla, Pandoy, Tintin, Gaboy, BJ, Julia, Kim & Adrian**, brothers, sisters and in-laws, **†MARTIN, †BISHOP CONCORDIO MA. SARTE, ANGELINA & EMILIO INANDAN, †LUDIVINA & †RENATO TURIANO, ELENA & †ENRIQUE NOBLE, ATTY. ROMEO & LILIAN, ANTONIO & SALVACION, Nieces, Nephews, relatives** and **friends** would like to request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Funeraria Imperial, Peñafrancia Ave., Naga City. Interment will be on February 25, 2006 at Eternal Gardens Naga City after the 9:00 AM Mass at the Our Lady of Peñafrancia Basilica Minore, Naga City.

Daily paraliturgical services is being offered every 8:00PM.

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LEONOR ESPEÑA BENOZA

Principal, Payatas Annex B Elementary School, Q.C.

*Peacefully joined our Lord and her parents, **ORLANDO** and **HENEDINA** and brother **EULOGIO** on 17 February 2006.*

Her brothers and sisters **Rebecca Cagmat**, **Minerva Tamana**, **Libertad Tagaza**, **Isagani** and **Benito**, in-laws, aunts, nephews, nieces and other relatives request the pious readers to join them in prayer for her eternal repose in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Chapel B, at G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on **23 February 2006** at the **Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina** after the **9:00 a.m.** Mass.

"I am the Resurrection and the life, He who believes in Me will live; even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die." - John 11:25-26

The Board of Directors and Trustees of C.J. Fred Ruiz Castro Educational Foundation, Inc. announce the death of its Founding Member

The Honorable Judge BENJAMIN R. RELOVA

(U.P. Law Class of '36)

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on February 16, 2006 at the age of 93.

His bereaved children **Manolo**; wife **Coco**; grandchildren **Carlos**, **Monique** and **Margarita**; son **John** and **Nanette Relova**; and all relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at **#1720 Dian St., Palanan, Makati City.**

His remains will be cremated at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass on February 21, 2006.

DEATH NOTICE

GIL C. DE LEON

San Juan, Rizal

Has joined his Creator
on February 17, 2006 at the age of 56.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 22, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the Himlayang Pilipino, Quezon City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

CLASSIFIEDS

PMAP, University of Makati partner for Compensation Management Program

THE HUMAN RESOURCE Management Development Center (HRMDC) of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) partners with University of Makati in holding a certificate course in Compensation Management to equip the participants with the relevant knowledge, attitudes, and skills in the exercise of the human resource development functions.

PMAP and the faculty of University of Makati designed the Certificate in Compensation Management (CCM) course, which will run for eight Saturdays starting Feb. 18 to April 22, 2006 at the Graduate School Building of University of Makati in West Rembo, Makati City.

The CCM course is part of PMAP's Diploma in Human Resource Management (DHRM) program. Completion of five PMAP certificate courses merits a post-graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management. The other certificate courses are Certificate in Human Resource Planning and Acquisition (formerly Recruitment-Selection Placement), Certificate in Organization Development, Certificate in Labor Relations, and Certificate in Human Resource Management (CCM).

For other information, PMAP may be contacted thru telephone numbers 726-1532/81/88.

PARM 16th annual confab, Feb. 22-25

THE PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF Rehabilitation Medicine (PARM) will be holding its 16th Annual Convention on February 22-25 at the Tagaytay Highlands. With "Orthotics and Prosthetics: A Comprehensive Review and Updates" as its theme, the convention will have Prof. Joan E. Edelstein, Adjunct Associate Professor at Columbia University and Chairman of Prosthetics and Orthotics Department of the New York University Medical Center and Dr. Jerome Albert Quintos, FPOA are the invited speakers. For further information please contact the PARM Secretariat, Suite Future Point Plaza Condominium, 112 Panay Avenue, Quezon City, Telefax (02) 415-9048 or e-mail at parmph@yahoo.com.

Stop the devastation from becoming an even deeper tragedy.

The news, unfortunately, is everywhere. As you read this, hope dims for rescuers searching for signs of life from townspeople buried under 25 to 35 meters of mud, rock and debris in Bgy. Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte. There are 400 survivors so far, but as many as 1,200 are still missing. Among those feared lost is an entire school filled with children taking their annual achievement exams. And now, there is a forecast of another tropical depression with the threat of more landslides that may affect the people in nearby barangays. Around 1,400 families have already been evacuated.

In tragedies like these, survivors pick up the pieces as best as they can. Schools and homes are destroyed, and loved ones are separated and gone forever in a matter of minutes. That is why we at UNICEF are asking for your help.

Hope must be kept alive for the survivors, and especially for the children. In emergency situations such as this, the youngest of children are the most vulnerable. Although they have lost the most, they stand the best chance of carrying on despite the circumstances, if only we can help them. And that is why we at UNICEF are calling on you now.

Survivors need provisions for basic nutrition, clean water and sanitation, medical care and psychosocial intervention. They need to be accounted for and placed with their families and relatives. Children must be protected from exploitation and trafficking. School books and materials must be replenished as part of rehabilitation efforts. Unless survivors, particularly children, are cared for immediately, efforts to rescue them will be in vain.

WE MUST ACT NOW to protect those who have survived and to prevent further loss of lives. UNICEF NEEDS YOUR HELP. Any donation you make to the UNICEF Emergency Fund will be greatly appreciated, and used for the welfare and support of children affected by tragedies such as the landslides in Southern Leyte. Please donate to the UNICEF Emergency Fund NOW.

REPLY FORM

☑ YES, I want to make a difference in the life of a child in devastated areas.

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BAYAD CENTER: (NEW) We accept donations through selected Bayad Centers only. Please call hotline for details.
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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ● TUESDAY FITNESS ● WEDNESDAY 2BU ● THURSDAY FOOD ● FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

LOVING is healing/C4

An orange a day...

By Pam Pastor

HERE ARE SCARY statistics: Studies show that the average person drinks soda 10-15 times more than juice.

That means so many people are missing out on the benefits of regular fruit juice intake.

Tropicana Pure Premium Orange Juice, the world's most popular not-from-concentrate orange juice drink, hopes to change the figures.

Tropicana Pure Premium, which was started by Italian immigrant Anthony Rossi in 1947, boasts of having 100-percent all-natural orange juice—without sugar, water, artificial coloring or preservatives.

It has remained true to its philosophy, "Nothing added, nothing taken away." No wonder it has been a breakfast staple for many families in different continents for decades now.

And now, thanks to Pepsico, Tropicana Pure Premium is available in the Philippines.

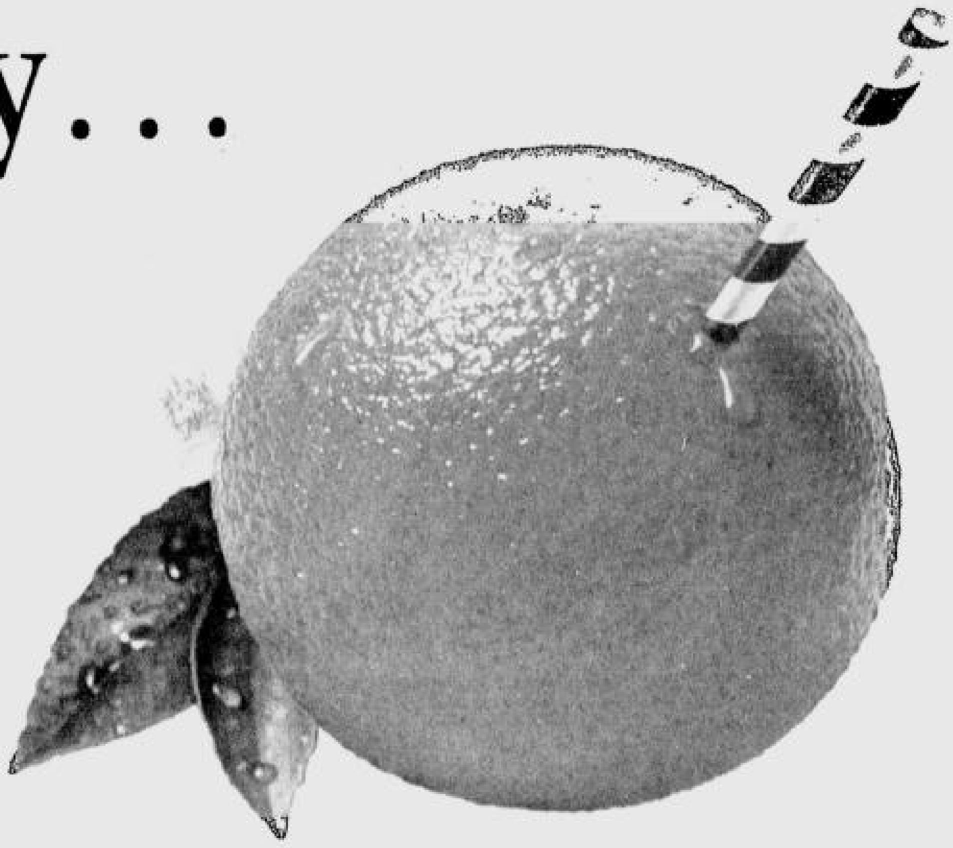
Handpicked

Oranges are carefully handpicked from groves in Florida, washed and sorted before the juice is gently extracted, filtered and blended. Then the juice is pasteurized to control microorganisms that may be harmful when consumed.

Not only did Tropicana pioneer the pasteurization of orange juice, it made sure no flavor was lost in the process.

Each carton contains 20 oranges, which means you are able to enjoy having freshly squeezed orange juice minus all the hassle. And because Tropicana is pure orange juice, you get to enjoy all the health benefits.

A glass of Tropicana will give 120 percent of your Vitamin C requirement for the day. Vitamin C has been found to help protect against cancer, heart disease, other inflammatory conditions caused by harmful oxygen free radicals, and even the common cold. It can also help maintain healthy skin and gums.



Tropicana
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ORIGINAL
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PURE PREMIUM
GROVESTAND

TROPICANA Pure Premium contains fiber that can promote the health of the digestive system for optimum performance.

Calcium-enriched

Tropicana has a variant that contains calcium and Vitamin D that can help prevent osteoporosis or brittle bones. Its potassium content—as much as a banana's—can help reduce the risk of high blood pressure and stroke.

Orange juice is also rich in folate, which keeps your mind and body alert and can lower the risk of heart disease. Pregnant women need folate to help reduce the risk of neural tube birth defects.

Your digestive system will also reap benefits from regular orange juice intake: Tropicana Pure Premium contains fiber that can promote its health and optimum performance.

> How can orange juice help your body? Let Tropicana count the ways

Those watching their weight need not worry—Tropicana Pure Premium is fat-free.

Members of the media enjoyed recently a Tropicana Weekend at the Mandarin Oriental. The healthy lunch was enjoyed with glasses of Tropicana, naturally. Then the group went to the spa for a relaxing massage.

Dinner at The Tivoli was a delight: Amuse Bouche (mussel for the women, *foie gras* for men), Cream of Wild Mushrooms with Garlic Croutons, Australian Beef Tenderloin, Chocolate Pavlova with Leatherwood Honey Ice Cream and Marinated Mangoes and Pralines.

Mini bars in the media guests' rooms were stocked with Tropicana and other Pepsico products. There were also orange-inspired pastries and sweets, courtesy of the Mandarin Oriental. The food was good and the service was excellent.

The weekend was as refreshing as a glass of pure orange juice.

Now, orange you glad you have a healthier choice?

Tropicana Pure Premium is available in your favorite supermarkets.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

Circuit, interval and cross training

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

IF YOU ARE BORED WITH YOUR workouts and feel like the fitness improvements you used to see have vanished into thin air, then you may want to try circuit, interval or cross training.

These methods are not new. They've been around a long time and, in fact, if you stick around a gym long enough, you're bound to hear about them. Here are the advantages and disadvantages:

Circuit training

Circuit training was invented in 1953 as an efficient way for coaches to train many athletes in a limited amount of time with limited equipment.

The exerciser moved through a series of weight training or calisthenics "stations" arranged consecutively. It was a fast-paced workout of 15-45 seconds per station with little (15-30 seconds) or no rest between stations. Today, this is known as "circuit weight training."

Research has shown that it can increase muscular strength and endurance. There is a mild improvement in aerobic stamina but only if the rest periods are kept very short.

Another variation is "aerobic circuit training." Aerobic stations like a treadmill, rower, bike, or stepper (one to five minutes per station) are interspersed with weight-training stations. This protocol has been found to increase aerobic stamina and muscular endurance and strength.

Interval training

Interval training was the brainchild of Dr. Woldemer Gerschler of Germany in 1930. He found that athletes could exercise at more intense levels if they were given intervals of rest or relief to recover from the intensity.

Interval training alternates periods of high intensity (called the work interval) with periods of lower intensity (called the rest or relief interval). One work interval and one rest interval equals one cycle. There are usually eight to 10 cycles in one workout session. It is quite demanding so it should be done on alternating days.

The ratio of work to rest intervals depends on you. A ratio of 1 is to 3 (1:3) means the recovery is three times as long as the work. An example is 30 seconds sprint and 90 seconds walking. A 1:2 ratio would be 60 seconds run and 120 seconds jog.

It is a time-efficient workout that trains both the aerobic and anaerobic systems. Aerobics is steady and continuous (walking or jogging) while anaerobic exercise is short quick bursts of power and speed (running as fast as you can for 30 seconds). A marathon is aerobic while the 100-meter dash is anaerobic.

The training enhances sports performance because it mimics the way the heart and muscles have to work in sports of a stop-and-go nature like soccer and basketball. It can be adapted to almost any sport. For example, swimmers or cyclists could alternate sprints with slow swimming or cycling.

High-intensity interval training is dangerous for people with low fitness levels. However, the concept can still be used by alternating intervals of moderate and very low intensity exercise. For example, walk at a moderate pace for two minutes (work interval), and then walk at a very slow pace (rest interval) for two minutes.

Cross training

In the early '80s, runners realized that by adding biking and swimming to their programs (thus was born the "triathlon"), they could prevent overuse injuries, develop new skills and strengthen muscles not used in running while still maintaining their aerobic capacity.

The Eastern Bloc countries also discovered that when their athletes did low-level training different from their sport, on their rest days, it enhanced recovery and maintained fitness levels better than pure rest.

Cross training means doing different exercise activities either during the same workout session or on different workout days. It relieves the boredom of doing the same exercise all the time. It helps you burn more calories by not allowing your body to become too efficient at one activity.

If planned properly, it prevents muscle imbalance by working all your muscles. For ex-

CIRCUIT/ C4

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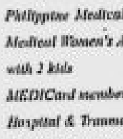

MEDICard The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

What are the common heart disease in children?

Heart disease in children are classified into acquired and congenital. The most common acquired heart disease is Rheumatic Heart Disease. There are two types of congenital heart disease:1) Acyanotic and 2) Cynotic group (blue babies. The most common congenital heart disease is ventricular septal defect. In this condition, there is a "hole" in the septum, the structure which separates the pumping chambers of the heart, the left and right ventricles. Apperance of the signs and symptoms of this disease will depend on the size of the defect. Small defects may go undetected but large defects may manifest as rapid or difficulty in breathing, poor sucking, rapid heart beat and poor weight gain. The most common cynotic heart disease (blue babies) is Tetralogy of Fallot, manifested as bluish discoloration of the lips and nailbeds. The above-mentioned diseases, surgery is indicated if symptoms appear early.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from Specialist Group Hospital & Trauma Center in Dagupan City, Dr. Ninfa Seballos-Quinio. Dra. Quinio, as she commonly addressed by her patients is specializes in Pediatric Cardiology and has been in practice for 26 years now. She finished her medical degree from UERMMMC and followed by her specialization training for Pediatrics from Quirino Memorial General Hospital. She later took her subspecialization training in Cardiology from Philippine Heart Center. She is an active member of the Philippine Pediatric Society, Philippine Society of Pediatric Cardiology, Philippine Medical Association, Pangasinan Medical Society and Pangasinan Medical Women's Association. She is married to Dr. Ernesto Quinio and blessed with 2 kids

MEDICard members may visit her for consultation services at Specialist Group Hospital & Trauma Center Mondays to Saturdays from 12:00 noon to 4pm.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

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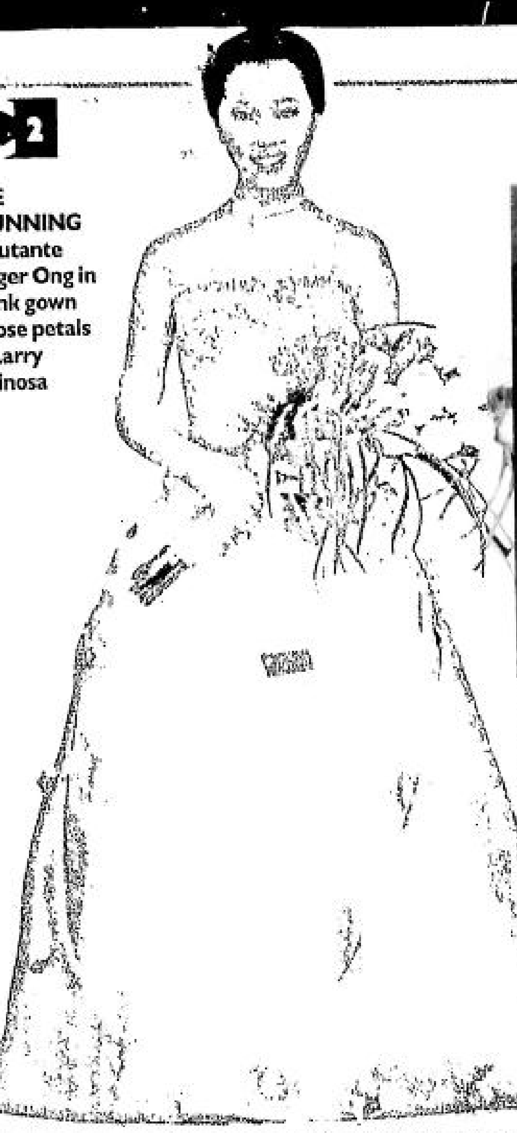

THE STUNNING debutante Ginger Ong in a pink gown of rose petals by Larry Espinosa

GORGEOUS Ginger O. was presented the 18 roses by: (front row) Benedict Pua, Ezekiel Quidilla, Patrick Lao, Howard Chang, Sherwin Yu and Earl Tanmantiong; (back) Xavier Ortigas, Tecson Lim, Jedrek Ong, Ellis Chua, Eduardo Firmalo, Kevin Chong, Gavin Go, Larson Chan, Jeffrey Ong and Reginald Tan

GINGER with her famille: Eldest brother Jedrek with wife Sunny and son Justin; her dad, business taipan Jovy Ong, and mom Genie Gochioco; and brothers Jeremy and Jeffrey during the cake-cutting ceremony. Penk Ching did the elegant birthday cake.

A royal ball for a princess

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

STUNNING BEAUTY AND young charmer **Ginger Ong**, daughter of mega taipan **Jovy Ong** and his attractive wife **Genie**, looked every inch a princess as she entered the Makati Shangri-La Hotel's Rizal Ballroom for the celebration of her grand debut, *palanggas*.

This event, which every young girl dreams of, had the grandeur and excitement of the Vienna Opera Ball. The ballroom was a virtual Austrian palace with huge towering columns, red curtains and white drapes, grand staircase and majestic chandeliers. The foyer was filled with lush greenery, giving a cool, garden-like ambience.

The visual splendor was complemented by the strains of Johann Strauss waltzes, superbly played by the 30-piece Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, no less, dahlings, that signaled the start of the dance for the traditional chichi debutante's ball. The event also featured the Philippine Madrigal Quartet.

In keeping with the elegance of a royal ball, *palanggas*, everyone was in their best formal garb.

As expected, the debutante drew "oohs," "ahhs" and applause from the invitees when she walked in, coming down the grand staircase regally in her gorgeous **Larry Espinosa** gown, which was fully covered with Swarovski crystals.

Ginger wore another Espinosa masterpiece toward the end of the affair—a pink gown with beads in the shape of petals.

Aprés her formal introduction, the beautiful faces in the cotillion made their way to the dance floor in pairs, drawing loud, loud applause from the cheering crowd. They opened the dance with an elegant waltz.

It was truly an awesome sight. *Moi* watched the dance of 18 roses that included the waltz, foxtrot, tango and swing, superbly choreographed by **Anamarie Quirino**. Without missing a beat, the customary 18 candles and cake-cutting ceremonies took place.

Then it was nostalgia time with an audio-video presentation of our debutante's growing years.

The highlight of the affair, and her shining moment, was when Ginger dazzled us all with her fantastic voice as she sang hits from Broadway and romantic movie themes. She was followed by the Madrigal Quartet, a group of fab singers from the University of the Philippines College of Music, headed by **Mark Carpio**, Ginger's vocal coach and mentor, no less.

More surprises? Why not, *palanggas*? This multifaceted, brilliant young miss' dancing talent had everyone in complete attention and admiration as she did a breathtaking ballet piece.

Hunky sportscaster and versatile television host **Marc Nelson** emceed the event, with his characteristic wit and humor, *palanggas*.

The glitzy affair befitting a regal young lady making her transition to full womanhood came to an end past Cinderella's bedtime, dahlings.

Cool Ginger remained totally glam, as she partied like the princess she was for the night.

Cheers, *palangga*!

Palace has moved

Multifaceted restaurateur, the popular **Colin Mackay**, made it a point to announce his long-anticipated arrival in another scene with a big bang! His super famous Thai restaurant, the unmatchable People's Palace, once in downtown Malate, has now transferred to its eye-catching new location in Greenbelt in uptown Makati, *palanggas*.

For the fab opening bash on an evening with a bright full moon, Mackay brought to Makati his renowned street parties in Malate, where he introduced the concept of "decadent parties." Boys would be girls and vice versa. Drag queens, as in the famous Tiffany show in Pattaya, Thailand, mingled with tons of invitees.

"Celebrate... the palate is open!" That was the tag line in the invitation. Many people were fashionably on time, arriving at 7 p.m. We were welcomed by tall drag queens in long sequined white gowns and fantastic white ostrich feather headdresses, looking like they had just stepped out of Brazil's Carnival del Rio, dahlings.

As soon as we stepped in, we were treated to an assortment of excellent Thai canapes and finger foods, like Tod Man Pla with Cucumber Relish; all-time favorite Pomelo, Prawn and Coconut Salad; and the cool, refreshing Iced Pandan Juice and Lemongrass-Ginger juice, *palanggas*. As the happening got going, more and more drinks were poured.

The opening was a reunion of some sort, as *moi* watched the upscale crowd that included the diplomatic set, tons of expatriates and Manille's café society, just like the crowd that used to hang out and enjoy Malate six years ago when Mackay's restaurants opened—the consistent Sala, People's and Joy, natch!

People's Palace is still one of the best Thai food places in town. Now it has an ultra-modern and cool setting, gorgeously and tastefully designed by talented **J. Anton "Tonichi" Mendoza**, no less, *palanggas*.

It's a must to call for reservations as it is packing them in, both for lunch and dinner, especially on weekends. Call 7292888.

COTILLION de Honor participants. Front: Ryan Contreras, Ma. Beatrix Roqueza, the debutante, Erica Herrera and Ivan Chan; (standing) Patrick Lao, James Lim, Melisse Ang, Vincent Fideles, Sophia Ng, Pamela Hwang, Charles Ty, Sheree Chua, Justin Uy, Johanna Kho, Osbert Wong, Johanna Ty and Glenn Ng

GODPARENTS VICTOR and Nancy Lim

GODFATHER Butch Sy

GODPARENTS Ignacio and Marga Ortigas

GODFATHER Eddie Lim

GINGER is swept off her feet by dashing Marc Nelson.

THE DEBUTANTE and partner Raymond Anzures perform a ballet number with students of Julie Borromeo's Performing Arts.

DIXIE Mabanta with our very own Tim Yap, People's Palace main man Colin Mackay and Mariko Jacinto

ED Feist and wife, Silk Cocoon's wonder woman Katrina Goulbourn; with Mark Jentes

MYRZA Sison, Andrei Wisniewski and Mariano Garchitorena

MARK Sauncerson, Chico Angeles, Jacqueline Rohrbach, Richard Evans and Shahid Zahid

ARCHITECT Tonichi Mendoza, who worked on People's Palace; Philip Eisenbeiss, Bo and Wabby Lindquist

JIM Tan and talented Gemma Suzara

BEAUTIFUL twosome Inez Delgado and Chukri Prieto, with cousin Karla Delgado and her dad, businessman Ricardo Delgado

---

The love story of Rudolf, Michelle and Rene

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

WHEN I WENT TO SWITZERland to accompany a world-famous Philippine healer and psychic surgeon in his healing mission, to my surprise, Rudolf and Michelle traveled all the way from Grenoble, France, to Zurich, Switzerland, to meet me at the airport.

I did not expect them to do that, so I had arranged for a young Swiss psychologist and researcher named Rene Schultz, whom I also met in Manila, to meet me at the Zurich Airport. I introduced Rene to Michelle and Rudolf.

They had instant rapport because of their common interest in Philippine healers and the so-called New Age Philosophy.

They decided to stay in our hotel because of their strong desire to meet and be with the famous Filipino healer, who was invited by a wealthy Swiss jeweler paralyzed from the waist down. Western doctors could no longer help the patient.

Another man

On our second evening at the hotel, Rudolf said we were going out. Rene had rented a car. I thought the four of us would go out together. I was ready to get into the car after Rene and Michelle when Rudolf held me back and said with a smile, "No, Rene and Michelle are going out together. The two of us are going to see a movie."

I thought it strange but managed to say, "Oh, okay." As the two drove away, Rudolf and I walked to the movie house, which was not far from where we were staying. I couldn't remember what the movie was about because it was in German.

After the movie, Rudolf and I went back to the hotel. I couldn't sleep that night. My Filipino conservative, medieval Catholic way of thinking couldn't understand what was happening.

How could Rudolf, who was obviously very much in love with Michelle, allow her to go out in the evening alone with another man? Is this for real or am I imagining things? I heard later that Michelle and Rene returned to the hotel around 2 a.m.

During breakfast the following day, I noticed Michelle and Rene had become very friendly with each other, even sitting beside each other at the table. I noticed Rene would even hold Michelle's hand or occasionally tap her shoulder. She would respond with a girlish smile.

Rudolf took all this casually and without any hint of anger or disapproval. He must have seen the puzzled look on my face because later that morning, when Rudolf and I were alone, he explained, "I know that in your country, women have very limited choices on whom to interact or socialize with. There is too much restriction on their behavior. I don't believe in that. I believe in giving the woman I love as much freedom as she wanted."

More incredible

This was too much for me. I did not think this could ever happen in the Philippines. A week later on my way back to Manila, I witnessed something even more incredible.

After the healing session in Switzerland, we all went our separate ways. The healer and his companions went to Germany. I went to Paris to visit a friend and Rudolf and Michelle returned to Grenoble, France.

After a week, I was to go back to Manila via Zurich. I made arrangements with Rene Schultz to stay overnight in his apartment so he could bring me to the airport the next day.

I took the train from Paris to Zurich. At the train station, I was surprised to be met by Rene and Michelle. "Where is Rudolf?" I asked.

"Oh, he is not around," Rene replied. "He brought Michelle here because she wanted to stay with me a few days. I'm sorry you can't stay with me in my apartment because it is too small. I've booked you in a hotel instead. I didn't expect this development."

Neither did I.

To be continued.

Rising demand for bottled water raises new concerns

THE DEMAND FOR BOTTLED water, which is increasing worldwide, is producing unnecessary garbage and consuming vast quantities of energy.

Emily Arnold, reporting for Earth Policy News, said global consumption of bottled water reached 154 billion liters (41 billion gallons) in 2004, up 57 percent from the 98 billion liters consumed five years earlier.

Demand is rising even in areas where tap water is safe to drink. Arnold said although bottled water was often no healthier than tap water in the industrial world, it could cost up to 10,000 times more and was even more expensive than gasoline.

Some of the largest increases in bottled water consumption occurred in developing countries, she said.

What is of grave concern to environmentalists is the cost in terms of energy consumption resulting from the growing demand for bottled water.

Arnold pointed out that tap water was distributed through an energy-efficient infrastructure. On the other hand, transporting bottled water over long distances involved burning of massive quantities of fossil fuels.

Nearly a quarter of all bottled water crossed national borders to reach consumers, transported by boat, train and truck.

Fossil fuels are also used in the packaging of water. The most commonly used plastic for making water bottles is polyethylene terephthalate (PET) derived from crude oil.

Making bottles to meet just Americans' demand for bottled water requires more than 1.5 million barrels of oil annually, enough to fuel some 100,000 US cars for a year. Worldwide, some 2.7 million tons of plastic are used to bottle water each year.

After the water is consumed, another problem arises—disposal.

Arnold said the Container Recycling Institute reported that 86 percent of plastic water bottles used in the United States became garbage or litter.

Burning used bottles produces poisonous byproducts such as chlorine gas and ash containing heavy metals. Buried water bottles can take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade.

The rapid growth in the industry also meant water extraction was concentrated in communities where bottling plants were located, the author said. In India, she said, water extraction by Coca-Cola for Dasani bottled water and other drinks caused water shortages for over 50 villages.

Similar problems had been reported in Texas and in the Great Lakes region of North America. Farmers, fishers, and others who depended on water for their livelihoods were suffering from concentrated water extraction as water tables dropped quickly.

Though consumers associated bottled water with healthy living, Arnold said bottled water was not guaranteed to be any healthier than tap water. Some 40 percent of bottled water began as tap water; often the only difference was added minerals with no marked health benefit.

She added that in the US, water-quality standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency for tap water were more stringent than the Food and Drug Administration's standards for bottled water.

Though clean, affordable drinking water was essential to people's health, Arnold said bottled water was not the solution to the problems of 1.1 billion people who lacked a secure water supply.

Improving and expanding existing water treatment and sanitation systems was more likely to provide safe and sustainable sources of water over the long term. In villages, rainwater harvesting and digging new wells could create more affordable sources of water.

Workshop for special children

A LECTURE-WORKSHOP ON "CONducting Educational Assessment and Creating Learning Programs for Children with Special Needs" will be held today and tomorrow, Feb. 21-22, at the Center for Alternative and Relevant Education (CARE) Foundation Inc. in New Manila, Quezon City.

Romina Rizzari, SPED specialist and educator, is conducting the lecture-workshop designed for SPED teachers, therapists, parents, caregivers and advocates.

The lecture-workshop covers, among others, Taking a Child's History (developing rapport and positive working relationship with the family); Conducting Developmental Assessments (screening and describing a child's strengths and weaknesses); and Writing Recommendations (encouraging the family to begin the child's program).

Prioritizing Teaching Targets (determining what to teach first) and Creating the IEP (teaching specific skills in individualized settings) are topics covered by the module on Creating Learning Programs.

Reservation to the Lecture-Workshop is open 9 a.m.-12 nn at CARE Foundation, 22 Madison Ave., New Manila, Quezon City. Call 7009669 or e-mail careiric 02@yahoo.com.

Another IAME Graduate

Dr. Michael Romero is the Chief Executive Officer of Harbour Centre Port Terminal, Inc. (HCPTI) which is one of the three commercial port terminal in Manila catering to both domestic and international bulk vessels with assets of almost P8 billion. He is also the chief financial officer of CFO of R-II Group of Companies, which includes R-II Holdings Inc., which handles three big corporate portfolios in the following industries: Housing and Construction, Property and Infrastructure Development, Environment Management and ; Port Operations and Management.

Last February 1, 2006, Dr. Michael Romero successfully defended his dissertation last at the International Academy of Management and Economics. His research is centered on **Strategic Supply Chain Integration** where he designed and recommended a working model using the **Harbour Centre Port Terminal Incorporated** as an example. The defense was held at the IAME ANC Studio/Theatre of the Noli Santos International Tower located at 1061 Metropolitan Avenue , San Antonio Village Makati City, before three panelists namely Emmanuel T. Santos, Ph.D., panel chairman; Nerza Rebustes, Ph.D. and Ped Salvador, Ph.D., panelists; Dr. JB Cuaresma served as tutor - adviser.

Dr. Michael Romero is one of IAME's model Ph.D. students because he epitomizes the true IAME graduate: an expert with extreme knowledge in a chosen industry, an entrepreneur in thinking where all aspects of an organization is important in a conceptual point of view, and an icon in stature for having achieved a doctoral degree where few men and women have achieved in their lifetime. Dr. Romero can truly be regarded as a role model for other entrepreneurs in the country who would like to validate their success stories with the highest academic degree possible in the form of a Ph.D.

He chose IAME because he believes IAME is at par with U.P., Ateneo, and La Salle in terms of quality of lecturers and contents of subjects in the curriculum

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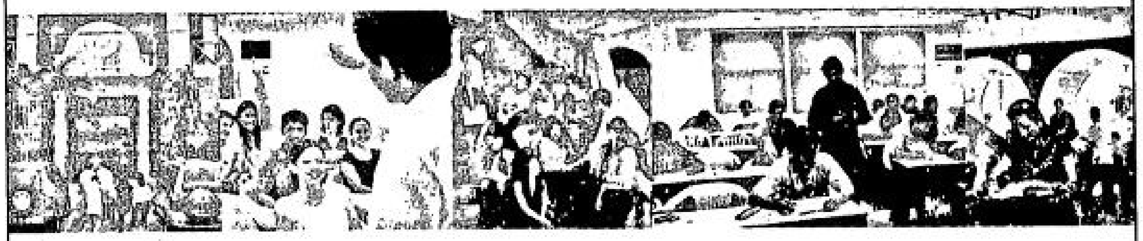

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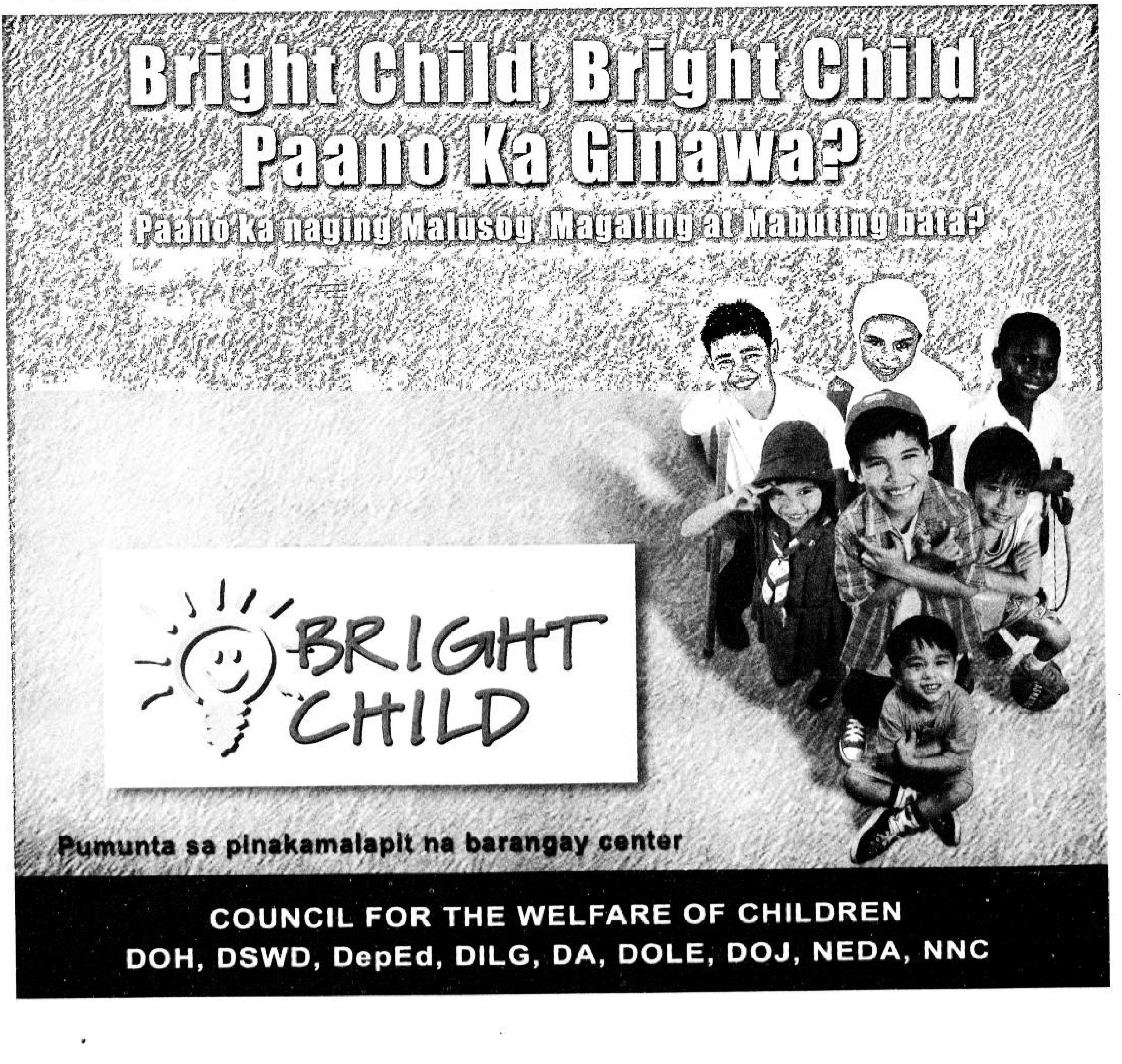


Bright Child, Bright Child
Paano Ka Ginawa?
Paano Ka naging Malusog, Magaling at Mabuting bata?

BRIGHT CHILD

Pumunta sa pinakamalapit na barangay center

COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN
DOH, DSWD, DepEd, DILG, DA, DOLE, DOJ, NEDA, NNC

Love protects and heals

"God's ability to give is infinite. We limit it by our own unloving perception." –Deepak Chopra

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

THE BODY HAS A center where love and spirit meet—it's called the heart. And where there is healing, there is health.

But there is no healing without taking the path to love. This is according to great sages and prophets since time immemorial. The only way to walk the path is to be in a state of love. And so, it all begins with the heart.

Health benefits

While no one has directly proven that love cures illness, it has been well-documented that the opposite is true—people who are constantly depressed, angry, anxious, stressed and wanting are at high risk of contracting all kinds of diseases.

In fact, folk wisdom says falling in love is the best and only way to prevent catching a cold in winter. This means that, long before medical research was done, love was already considered an immune booster. It is said that love provides homeostatic balance (the state of perfect body energy).

Even if there is no direct link between being loved and in love and the lowering of blood pressure or the prevention of cancer, most will attest that being with the object of your love makes you experience a state of well-being.

You can easily verify, through your own experiences, this significant effect on your health.

Let love in

People who allow love into their lives have evolved because they have come to understand the powerful medicine that love is. They have learned not to be and not to do things that guarantee the absence of love:

- **Feel fearful, numb and traumatized.** The natural effect of guilt and fear, failure, humiliation, rejection is to numb feelings. Numbness repels sensitivity and openness, the foundation of love. Transcend your guilt because it is a negative emotion.
- **Live on misconstrued and pre-programmed beliefs.** You are what you believe and what others tell you to believe (your programming began since childhood through your home, schools, church, culture and environment) formed your belief system.

But what if your programming and conditioning influence you to deny love's presence and purpose in your life? What then? Is this not violence to the self? According to Deepak Chopra, MD, in the "Path to Love," any belief that attacks your ability to value yourself is a distortion. Thus, the spirit of the message says your highest self deserves its highest value and "love without exception."

- **Feel valued and appreciated only for what they do and not for who they are.** If you value yourself, then your emotional bank account is solid. The more you value yourself, the more you have something to give to others. If you ask yourself, "What would a person truly love about me?" the only real and enduring answer is "myself."
- **Failed at love and are too exhausted/tired to even try again.** If you give up, nothing else will flow into your life. People who lack energy also lose passion. But in truth, your energy is never depleted for it is ever-renewing. If you give up on love, love will give up on you.

Meditation on the heart

Imagine a heart burdened by hurts, pain, fear. It has been weighed down over the years. It's time to unburden it and lighten its load.

- Listen to your heart without harsh judgment and prejudice.
- Find a comfortable spot and position.
- Close your eyes.
- Be quiet.
- Breathe slowly.
- Focus on the middle of your chest.
- Find the place where feelings enter. This is your point of awareness.
- See its light, which could be pink, white, gold or blue.
- Rest your attention there. Now allow the light to fill your entire chest. In the silence, your heart will speak.
- Allow all your feelings, dreams, hurts, longings to be released.
- Keep still for 10-15 minutes.

Heart boosters

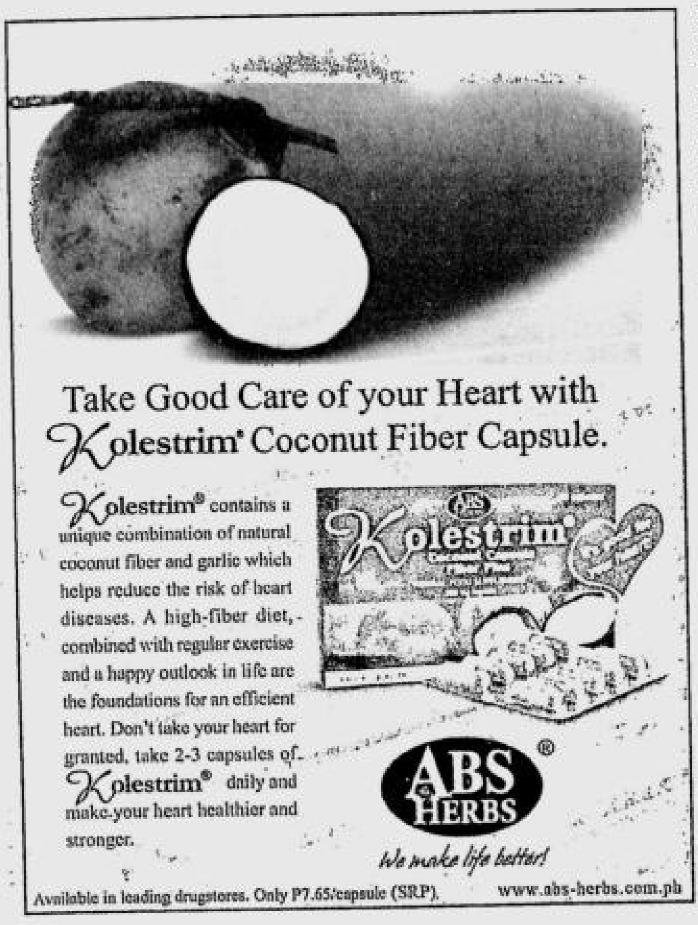
- Decrease salt/sugar intake.
- Stop smoking.
- Lessen alcohol intake to once a day.
- Exercise regularly.
- Manage your weight. Decrease intake of saturated fat, hydrogenated oils, cholesterol. Eat more fish, fresh vegetables and fruits. Take supplements—1,000-mg calcium, 500-mg magnesium daily, Vitamin C, B6 and E, Co-enzyme Q10 (CQ10). Add lecithin to your diet. Relax and meditate. Release your stress through laughter.

Love yourself enough to allow love into your life. If it is absent, let it find its way back to you. If your heart remains open, you become a source of love, finally becoming the ultimate healer.

Love and light!

Reference: "Vitamin Bible for the 21st Century" by Earl Mindell

You are all invited to my Beauty and Wellness Day with Smart and dzMM, Feb. 25, at SM Megamall. Call 4152272 loc. 5638.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Catch her on Feb. 25 at the Activity Center of SM Megamall.

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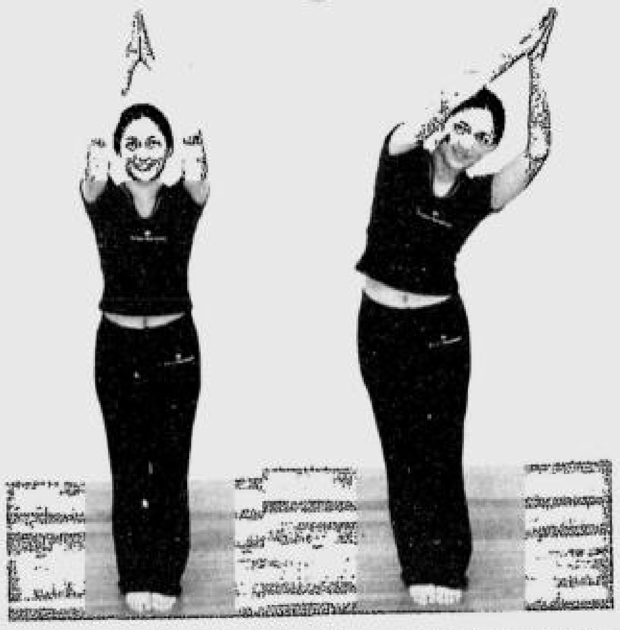
EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Standing moon



THIS YOGA-INSPIRED EXERcise stretches the sides of the body.

Equipment:

None

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with your feet together. Put your palms together with thumbs crossed in the middle of your chest then raise your arms above your head.
2. Elongate upward then lean your body to one side.
3. Hold for three to five breaths.
4. Return to the middle and bring your palms down to the middle of your chest. Rest your shoulders for two to three breaths then repeat the exercise on the other side.

Performance tips:

1. Make sure your inhalation and exhalation are consistent in length and depth. One breath means inhaling and exhaling.
2. Try to elongate diagonally while you are leaning to the side instead of just allowing your upper body to fall sideways.
3. If it bothers your shoulders, separate your palms and keep your arms at shoulder width.
4. If you feel like you are unbalanced, keep your feet hip width apart.
5. If it bothers your lower back, bring only one arm up and keep the other one by your side by placing your hand on your hip.

Repetitions:

Do only one repetition per side.

Circuit, interval . . .

From page C1

ample, runners have strong legs and weak upper bodies if they don't cross train with weight lifting.

In a nutshell

Circuit training has no rest periods as you go from one station to the next with the same intensity all throughout. In interval training, intensity goes up and down. Cross training is simply doing a different type of exercise either on alternating days or during the same workout session.

Sources: "Peak Performance: What Science Has to Say About Circuit Training Routines"

Dr. Len Kravitz: "The Fitness Professional's Guide to Circuit and Interval Training"

Note: The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold the Fitness and Management Seminar-Workshop on Feb. 25. The American Fitness and Aerobics Association will hold a Kickboxing Workshop on Feb. 24 and Resistance Class Workshop on Feb. 26. For all events, call Joy at 9202762, 0917-5181202 or visit www.fitnessphilippines.org.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info